

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine And Even Bigger In Tassie!

Still
\$4

goal!

W e e k l y

Vol. 7 No. 16 Monday 6th June 2011

This Week's Line Up



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN
GROUP C
Page 18

Elastoplast

Souvenir Poster Inside
FC Barcelona



Just when you thought it was safe to leave the
dressing rooms...

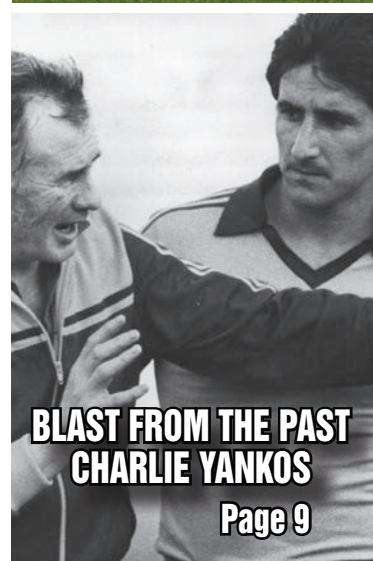
PLANKING GRIPS AUSSIE FOOTBALL!



Tasmanian Premier League action: Tilford Zebras' Jonathon Ladic takes a free-kick against Eagles complete with ground official planking in the background. Photo: RAELENE HENNICKE



FOOTBALL FOCUS
ON MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS' BEN SUREY
Page 19



BLAST FROM THE PAST
CHARLIE YANKOS
Page 9



ALL THE LATEST VPL
ROUND 15 ACTION
Page 22



SAXON SPORTS FRANKSTON

THE 2011 RIVIERA HOTEL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE COMP - \$3000 PRIZE MONEY

5-A-SIDE SOCCER

32 TEAMS - STARTS WED 19TH OCTOBER

Mens & Ladies
Mixed & Juniors

Watch a replay
of your favourite
game in the bar at
full time!

Tel 9783 6066 or see website for full details www.saxonsportsfrankston.com 4/4 New Street, Frankston (Behind Burson Auto Parts)



WATCH THE GOLD CUP AND THE COPA AMERICA AT ZAGAME'S DURING JUNE AND JULY



Monday 6-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Costa Rica v Cuba 7:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Mexico v El Salvador 9:55am LIVE

Tuesday 7-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Jamaica v Grenada 10:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Honduras v Guatemala 12:55pm LIVE

Wednesday 8-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Panama v Guadeloupe 7:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup USA v Canada 9:55am LIVE

Friday 10-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Costa Rica v El Salvador 8:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Cuba v Mexico 10:55am LIVE

Saturday 11-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Jamaica v Guatemala 8:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Grenada v Honduras 10:55am LIVE
J-League Gamba Osaka v Shimizu S Pulse 7:55pm LIVE

Sunday 12-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Canada v Guadeloupe 7:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup USA v Panama 9:55am LIVE

Monday 13-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup El Salvador v Cuba 7:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Mexico v Costa Rica 9:55am LIVE

Tuesday 14-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Guatemala v Grenada 8:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Honduras v Jamaica 10:55am LIVE

Wednesday 15-Jun

CONCACAF Gold Cup Canada v Panama 8:55am LIVE
CONCACAF Gold Cup Guadeloupe v USA 10:55am LIVE
J-League Nagoya Grampus v Albirex Niigata 7:55pm LIVE

Thursday 16-Jun

Copa Libertadores TBC v TBC 10:45am LIVE

DON'T MISS! THE SOCCEROOS TAKE ON SERBIA

International Friendly
Tuesday 7th June
Australia v Serbia
6.30 pm LIVE



IF IT'S LIVE...IT'S AT ZAGAME'S CAULFIELD SPORTS BAR!

25 DERBY ROAD, CAULFIELD EAST 3145 | PH: 9571 6268 | www.zagames.com.au

Kennedy brace seals Tasman derby

By Nat Adamopoulos

In their first match at the Adelaide Oval since 1958 an undermanned Qantas Socceroos defeated the All Whites 3-0 in the International Friendly in front of a 21,281 strong crowd. The Aussie lads finding the net were Josh Kennedy bagging a brace and James Troisi putting away a penalty in injury time.

In drizzly conditions it didn't take the Aussies long to get stuck into the match, James Troisi's first shot going just wide of the far post in the 2nd minute. Just 4 minutes later Captain Brett Emerton missed an opportunity from 20m out just shooting wide of the keeper Glen Moss. After the Kiwi keeper misread Jeremy Brockie's back pass In the 10th minute, Josh Kennedy struck true with an easy shot for the Socceroos first goal. With the Kiwis giving little resistance Troisi was back in the mix of things just 5 minutes later, again shooting wide off target. Midway through the first half the visitors found their feet slipping through the Aussie defence, keeper Coe getting some action between the sticks. The Aussies were relentless with another shot at goal coming in the 29th minute this time Brockie blocking the shot to keep the score at 1:0. Towards the end of the first half New Zealand looked like getting back into the game with Kosta Barbarouses and Brockie looking menacing. But the Aussies were quick to get back into attack with Kilkenny coming close only to lose possession in front of goal as NZ defence scrambled to clear the ball. As the first half came to the end big Kiwi Ben Sigmund brought down young gun Michael Zullo just moments before Referee Tojo blew the whistle to go in for the break.

Changes galore as the second half began with Qantas Socceroos coach Holger Osieck taking Brett Holman, Brett Emerton and Luke Wilkshire off for Robbie Kruse, Dario Vidosic and Rhys Williams while his counterpart Ricki Herbert had Andrew Boyens coming off for Michael Fitzgerald. Just 6 minutes into the restart and Kennedy fouled Fitzgerald as he brought some spark into the visitors game, with Herbert making his second change McGlinchey off for Marco ROJAS. As the rain fell heavier the conditions did not falter the Aussie attack, their second goal coming in the 59th minute from a corner kick into the hot spot and a lovely header to finish by Kennedy as he then was subbed off for Alex Brosque. More personnel changes for NZ Wood off for Clapham and Carl Valeri coming off for Mark Milligan for the Aussies. The multiple changes gave the visitors some hope in the 78th minute as the substitute Rojas took a nice run down the middle passing off to Shane Smeltz, the ball tapping up from the striker's boot onto his knee and just bobbling away to deny a possible chance to score. The All Whites were lucky not to concede another in the 83rd minute with a nice bit of play from Vidosic out wide on the right putting in a shot for Brosque who missed connecting boot to ball and Kruse just not in the right place to tap in.

Kruse won a penalty in the 2nd minute of added time as he was brought down in the box adding to New Zealand's woes. A confident Troisi grabbing the ball to take the spot-kick and drill it beyond the reach of substitute goalkeeper, Jack Gleeson to give the Aussies the 3-0 victory. The Qantas Socceroos will play their next International Friendly against Serbia at Etihad Stadium,



The Socceroos celebrate after Josh Kennedy scores in the wet. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Match Details

Match Details:
Qantas Socceroos 3
(Josh Kennedy 10', 59', James Troisi 90+4')
New Zealand 0
Sunday, 5 June 2011
Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
Local kick-off: 5.00pm
Crowd: 21, 281

Qantas Socceroos: 18. Nathan Coe (gk), 3. Michael Zullo (17. Matt McKay 70'), 7. Brett Emerton (c) (5. Dario Vidosic 46'), 8. Luke Wilkshire (5. Rhys Williams 46'), 9. Josh Kennedy (13. Alex Brosque 60'), 11. James Troisi, 14. Brett Holman (23. Robbie Kruse 46'), 16. Carl Valeri (4. Mark Milligan 65'), 19. Neil Kilkenny, 20. Matthew Spiranovic, 21. Jonathan McKain
Substitutes not used: 1. Adam Federici (gk), 2. Lucas Neill, 6. Sasa Ogrenovski, 20. Mitchell Langerak (gk), 15. Mile Jedinak
Yellow Cards: Josh Kennedy



The Socceroos line up prior to the clash at Adelaide Oval. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Kiwi fans enjoy the spectacle.. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



WORLD OF SOCCER

THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SOCCER NEEDS

World of Soccer - Dandenong
Shop 4/119 Lonsdale Street
Tel: 9794 5860

FREE POSTAGE ANYWHERE
IN AUSTRALIA

www.worldofsocca.com.au

Player Ratings

Ratings by Vince Rugari in Adelaide

Nathan Coe: 7. Didn't have much to do, but did well when called upon. Probably now Osieck's clear No.3 goalkeeper.

Luke Wilkshire: 7. Serviceable as per usual. Only played the first 45 minutes and will be wrapped in cotton wool to ensure he is ready for Serbia.

Jon McKain: 7. Solid at the centre of defence, but was never really troubled.

Matthew Spiranovic: 7.5. Looks to finally be over his injury woes and was very solid at centre-back. Needs to continue in the same vein as Neill and Ognenovski aren't getting any younger.

Michael Zullo: 7.5. Jumped the first hurdle in the race for the vacant left-back position. Looked assured and defence and zippy in attack. Now he needs to carry that on.

Brett Emerton: 7. Combined brilliantly with Wilkshire on the right hand side in the first half before

Carl Valeri: 7. Vintage Valeri. Won the ball and dished it off to Kilkeny when he did.

Neil Kilkeny: 7. Quiet early, but looked better as the game went on and played some cute little triangles with Holman and Troisi in the first half.

James Troisi: 8. Had a sensational first half zipping up and down the left flank. Quiet in the second, but stepped up to the plate to hammer home his debut international goal from the penalty spot deep in injury time. One to watch.

Brett Holman: 7.5. Busy as always and clever with his passing and energetic with his runs. Should open up a humble pie restaurant because we're all still eating it.

Josh Kennedy: 7. Pinched a goal early but missed an easy chance early in the second half, right in front of goal. His second was typical 'Jesus'. Substitutes

Rhys Williams: 7. Did well at right-back and deserved a good game after his injury woes.

Dario Vidosic: 7. Was very busy in the second half and looked in very good nick. Probably in the shop window for a few clubs now, given he's off contract.

Robbie Kruse: 7.5. Earned the penalty that gave Troisi his debut international goal.

Alex Brosque: 6.5. Did some nice things but never really got going.

Mark Milligan: 6.5. Looked reasonable enough in midfield.

Matt McKay: N/A. Wasn't on long enough to make an impact.

Osieck to youngsters: Don't leave too early

By Vince Rugari

Socceroos coach Holger Osieck believes Australia is blessed with a rich generation of talent coming through the ranks - but warned they must not leave our shores too early.

Osieck has recently cast his eye over a wide assortment of young European-based Australians in recent times, through a number of talent identification camps in Germany, and his admiration for the A-League is well documented.

"I consider the A-League a very valuable and important league. When you look at our squad, it's not just A-League players - there's a numbers of players who now play abroad but made it through the A-League," he said.

"You have to give it a lot of credit."

But he stressed that players should not be so hasty when

it comes to heading overseas before they are ready.

"I'll tell you - I'm very impressed. There's a lot of good players coming up," he said.

"The only concern I have, and I want to really express it, is the talk of going abroad too early, going here, going there."

"We've got to deal with this issue with great care. If you give them the wrong advice, they find themselves on the bench or playing for a club in the fourth division."

"Then we are in a really dangerous position and their development will not be appropriate to their potential."

James Troisi left Adelaide at just 17 years of age to join Newcastle United's academy program and in a hindsight it seems a premature move given his lack of senior action at the club.

But he was part of the generation affected one-year gap between the demise of the old

National Soccer League and the advent of the A-League.

The A-League was barely a concept when Troisi moved to England to join Newcastle in 2005.

In his three years in Tyneside he never saw a minute of first-team action - only appearing sporadically as an unused substitute - but he said he would not change a thing if he had his time again.

"I couldn't say that, not at all. The A-League has improved a lot - we don't get to see much of it but I can't change what's happened and I wouldn't want to," he said.

Troisi has every right to feel vindicated now after Sunday's match against New Zealand. He was sensational on the left side of midfield, giving the Kiwis headache after headache.

He even nabbed his first ever international goal from the penalty spot - and credits the 'school of hard knocks' that exists in Eng-



land for his development. "I felt that I had to go to the next level. I started at the academy because of my age and I was playing regularly," he said. "It was just the last year or two

that I didn't play so much for the first team, which was where I wanted to play. It was my decision to move and I've been playing as much as I could."



Josh Kennedy pounces on a fatal back pass by the All White defence and skips around a desperate Glen Moss to slot the ball home for the opening goal of the match. Above: Josh celebrates with the Adelaide crowd. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

WANT TO GO TO ITALY FOR TRIALS 17-30 July 2011 18+ TOUR, VERONA

6 GAMES, 12 DAYS AGAINST SERIE A-D TEAMS SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

www.issgenova.com to see past successful trialists



Cup dishes up derby day clashes



5th Round Details

- Melb Knights 3-1 North Sunshine Eagles
- Oakleigh Cannons 1-0 Pascoe Vale
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Port Melbourne v South Melbourne
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Springvale WE v Malvern City
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Ballarat Red Devils v St Albans Saints
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Dandenong City v D'nong Thunder
- Thu 9 Jun 11 7:30PM
FC Bulleen Lions v Northcote City
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Southern Stars v Bentleigh Greens
- Wed 8 Jun 11 7:30PM
Green Gully v Sunshine George Cross
- Sat 11 Jun 11 3:00PM
FC Clifton Hill v Cobram Victory
- Sat 11 Jun 11 1:00PM
Hume City v Moreland City
- Sun 12 Jun 11 3:00PM
Preston Lions v Heidelberg United

By Robert Di Fabio

The fifth round of the Mirabella Cup competition has finally arrived with a great deal of anticipation for the competing clubs involved. Two of the twelve fixtures were played last week, while the remaining games will be played during the course of the week and over the long-weekend.

Recently, Football Federation Australia announced the termination of the Victorian based A-League outfits- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart from participating in the rejuvenated state-wide Victorian cup competition. The news was met with a significant amount of disappointment and frustration from the FFV and the Victorian football fraternity following their initial inclusion in the tournament. The hallucination of playing the heavy weights of Australian football is not to be anymore, not until the proposed nation wide FFA Cup competition which is meant to come into fruition by next year.

Nevertheless, the Mirabella Cup has thus far brought an unprecedented amount of success towards the local football communities. Cup dreams have been brought to life, tension, drama and a constituent that only cup football can convey towards the beautiful game.

Melbourne Knights (VPL) 3-1 North Sunshine Eagles (Prov 1)

The cup reverie for little known North Sunshine was brought to life with the dream fixture against former NSL champions Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium. The Eagles disposed of recently crowned VPL champions- Altona Magic (State 1) 2-1 in what was one of the upsets of the tournament. The Knights had an easy route to the fifth round with a comprehensive 6-2 triumph over Keilor Park (State 3). Although the Knights' form hasn't been all too flash, a turbulent time in the VPL leaves the Knights without a win since their 4-0 demolition of



Preston Lions and Heidelberg United rekindle rivalries in the Mirabella Cup. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Bentleigh Greens on March 20.

In an encounter where there are four divisions separating the respective outfits on the Victorian pyramid, the Knights were expected to gain entry into the next round with ease. However, reminiscent of their cup form, North Sunshine rose to the occasion and stepped it up a gear to their higher league opposition. At the halftime interval, the Knights narrowly lead their Provisional League One opposition by the solitary goal, recording a 1-0 scoreline. Although the Eagles were diligent in battle, eventually succumbing to a 3-1 defeat.

Oakleigh Cannons (VPL) 1-0 Pascoe Vale (State 1)

The league form of Oakleigh has been blistering to say the least, with the Cannons cementing top position on the VPL ladder. In stark contrast, Pascoe Vale have has mixed results in their respective league, sitting mid-table heading into the winter period. The previous round in the cup saw

Oakleigh eclipse Waverley Wanderers (State 3) 5-2 in their opening game, while Pascoe Vale enjoyed a comfortable win over Mooroolbark (Prov 1). Pascoe Vale had the daunting assignment of travelling away to Jack Edwards Reserve to face the high flying Cannons. Oakleigh scored the lone goal from a set-piece. A well flighted ball was crossed in from the wing, where it was met by a Cannons player who headed it into the back of the net. Pascoe Vale applied pressure on the Oakleigh defence; however they weren't able to prevail. Oakleigh held on to cement a hard fought 1-0 victory.

Previews

Whilst the VPL's Melbourne Knights and Oakleigh Cannons managed to steer clear of any embarrassing cup mishaps, the remainder of the ties dish up some interesting contests, each with a sprinkle of potential cup magic. High flying State League One side Port Melbourne will certainly fancy itself

against its more illustrious neighbour South Melbourne, especially as the VPL heavyweight has been struggling to find form of late. Sharks player/coach Eric Vassiliadis has resurrected the fortunes of the once mighty Port Melbourne side and with players such as Joey Di Iorio leading the attack could cause Eddie Krncevic's men more than its fair share of headaches. Expect a bumper crowd at Anderson Reserve on Wednesday night for this one.

Although two divisions separate these two teams, a home ground advantage and a boisterous home crowd puts Ballarat Red Devils in a favourable position to take the honours in this Cup tie. The Saints are having a woeful season and still searching for their first league win of the year, so expect a long trip home for the battling VPL side. A potentially cracking local derby encounter comes to Dandenong as City takes on Thunder. Led by former Socceroo Josip Biskic, Dandenong City won't be afraid to take the game right

up to Thunder, who are still reeling from the FFV's recent tribunal decision, and no doubt a big crowd of passionate supporters will be on hand to watch this one. Is this the beginning of the end for Thunder, or will they bounce back and show us what they're made of?

A tough game awaits Bentleigh Greens as they take on the ambitious Southern Stars. Under Dean Hennessey the Stars will be well equipped to push the Johnny Anastasiadis' Greens all the way. I doubt there will be too much separating these two sides and a single goal could be the difference.

The Maltese El Classico makes for a tantalising Cup fixture as a recently improved Green Gully hosts arch rival Sunshine Georgies. The Georgies have had a disappointing start to the year but under new coach Con Anthopoulos the time is ripe to cause an upset and kick-start their season. What better way than to do it than in a derby game against an arch rival.

Can this year's Cup fairytale story continue? All will be revealed as Cobram Victory prepares to take on FC Clifton Hill. The boys from Goulburn Valley showed that they are more than capable of mixing it with opponents from the higher echelons of Victorian football after bundling out Whittlesea Zebras 3-2 in an epic cup tie in the last round. Lead by player/coach and former AFC Wimbledon striker, Craig Carley, who at one time partnered Kiwi international Shane Smeltz up front for the Dons, the Hillman will underestimate their country cousins at their own peril.

The final match of the round pits together two of Victoria's oldest and proudest clubs in another potentially classic Cup encounter. Preston Lions have started to hit their straps of late and with 2008 Gold Medallist Tony Strejovski pulling the strings in midfield the high flying Heidelberg United will have to be on top of their game to combat a resurgent Lions who will no doubt enjoy the benefits of a home ground advantage.

wish the FFA can replicate the same amount of exhilaration amongst fans and bring football back to the centre-piece of the Australian sporting market.

The Hyundai A-League comprises of all the correct ingredients to be a highly successful and creditable competition in Australia, Asia and additionally worldwide. The FFA must learn from their mistakes, listen to the fans and take advantage of their surrounding by effectively connecting with the wider communities. Once all this has been done, then the A-League will take another step closer into realising its potential.

A-league Releases 2011/12 Season Draw

By Robert Di Fabio

The unveiling of the Hyundai A-League 2011/12 season draw has ultimately been revealed by Football Federation Australia. The highly anticipated wait to the re-energized season seven fixture had many within the football fraternity on the edge of their toes. Next season has seen a number of changes present to the landscape of the A-League competition.

Evidently, the FFA have installed a strategic plan for the promotion of the new season. The season will commence on October 8, a day after the Socceroos are in town. The FFA are seeking to take full advantage of the A-League opening by playing blockbuster fixtures in the opening three weeks.

The opening round will comprise of heated rivalry between Melbourne Victory and Sydney FC, Melbourne Heart will travel to Newcastle, whilst the eagerly awaited Grand Final re-match between reigning A-League champions Brisbane Roar and Central Coast Mariners will take place at Suncorp Stadium.

Week two will see old foes Adelaide United and Melbourne Victory clash at Hindmarsh Stadium, while week three will encompass the traditional derbies when Brisbane Roar host Gold Coast United, Newcastle Jets welcome Central Coast Mariners and the highly anticipated encounter between Melbourne outfits- Victory and Heart.

A-League Chief Lyall Gorman has professed his confidence in re-branded A-League competition by saying he is "extraordinarily" confident that the league will be successful and has

declared that the A-League will be at the heart of the Australian summer landscape by "taking over summer in Australia". Let's hope Gorman's immense optimism is turned into reality.

- Due to the competitive market in Australian sport, the A-League has been moved to an October start with the home and away season concluding towards the end of March, before the finals-series comes to an end at April's end. The decision was made in order to have clear air space and avoid the business ends of the AFL and NRL final-series. The FFA feels as though it is better for football to commence its season when the other codes have wound up in order to gain the best possible outcome for the fans.
- "We've taken a lot of time to reflect on season six and taken the contributions from our major stakeholders, our fans, sponsors, media groups," Gorman said.
- "Football needs its own clean air-space and it belongs at the start of October.
- "With the Socceroos playing on October 7, it's a spot we want to claim with some very clear objectives: to make it highly popular, world class, to be sustainable, and be more accessible for fans, the 1.7 million people who touch our game at the weekend, year on year.
- With the unfortunate demise of expansion club North Queensland Fury, the amount of fixtures on display has been reduced from 30 to 27 league games (before the Finals Series) spread over the course of 25 weeks. Each club will acquire 13

home games with less back to back games for teams and fans in a ploy to have a more consistent line of fixturing.

In some respects, it's an unfortunate situation for Australian football as we need our youngsters to play as many games as possible to gain match fitness and improve technical standards. In regards to the competition, it is disappointing on the front that, in order to align ourselves with the superior football leagues around the world and also Asia, we need to play as many games as possible to entice players to play in Australia and for the credibility of the competition. Hopefully, in good time the amount of fixtures will be increased.

- The number of mid-week fixtures has been reduced substantially from 30 to 10 and will be played throughout the summer months in December-January. The FFA feels as though families and children will have a greater opportunity of attending these games during the summer holidays as opposed to having fixtures clustered during the year.
- "There's the very family friendly midweek games which we've collapsed into a very tight window around the school holiday period in all of our markets so families can make that more accessible.
- "Historically it was hard on them - Wednesday midweek, September and February and so on - to get mums and dads and kids to come out.
- For the first time in A-League history, a complete round will be scheduled on the one day, Wednesday 4th



January. The FFA has classified it as a "football bananza" which will comprise of five games played back to back for an 11 hour marathon of football. The day will commence in Wellington at 1pm (EST) and conclude in Perth with the 10pm (EST) kick-off.

It is an innovative way of thinking by the FFA who have definitely thought outside the square on this occasion. People have queried why this football marathon wasn't played before on the Monday or Tuesday as Wednesday is the day many people will resume work after the festive season break. Nevertheless, let's hope this experiment proves to be a successful venture.

- To broaden community engagement and grow the game in new areas around the country, the FFA have opted to transform five matches into regional areas involving every A-League club. The manoeuvre is

deemed to strengthen the game into regional areas and build the momentum of the competition.

- There will be a more consistent line of programming with a regular 8:00pm (EST) timeslot on Friday night's.
- An invigorated marketing plan will be installed into the new season which will take advantage of new digital channels and social media. The FFA will pledge in the region of \$5 million- around the same margin as it did on TV and outdoor advertising in the inaugural A-League season in 2005/06. The marketing campaigns of recent seasons have received dire reviews by the football community and rather fruitless in their attempt to engage with the wider communities. The novelty and intrigue of the A-League in its inception was an exciting prospect seven years ago, with anticipation let's

A-League Round 1

Sat 8 Oct 2011
Newcastle Jets v Melb Heart
Ausgrid Stadium
KO 4:30pm 4:30pm (AEDT)

Sat 8 Oct 2011
Melbourne Victory v Sydney FC
Etihad Stadium
KO 6:30pm 6:30pm (AEDT)

Sat 8 Oct 2011
Brisbane Roar v CC Mariners
Suncorp Stadium
KO 7:45pm 8:45pm (AEDT)

Sun 9 Oct 2011
Gold Coast United v W Phoenix
Skilled Park
KO 4:00pm 5:00pm (AEDT)

Sun 9 Oct 2011
Perth Glory v Adelaide United
nib Stadium
KO 4:30pm 7:30pm (AEDT)

By David Manuca

Edinson Cavani is one of the hottest strikers in Europe at the moment. The Uruguayan international scored 25 goals for Napoli in the Serie A this season, finishing second behind Antonio Di Natale on the scoring charts. He scored a further 8 goals in Europe and is quickly becoming a cult hero with the Napoli supporters.

The man they call ‘El Matador’ was immense for Napoli this season and a major force behind their push for the Serie A title. Napoli purchased 24-year-old Cavani on loan from Palermo in last years summer transfer window after his performance at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The tall striker has been linked to a number of big clubs in this years summer transfer window including Real Madrid, Manchester City and Chelsea but signed a deal last week to keep him at Napoli permanently until 2016. Cavani was born Salto, a country town in the north-eastern part of Uruguay, and moved to the nation’s capital, Montevideo, as a teenager to join the youth team of Danubio FC.” From the time I was really small, like 12-years-old, the big clubs were asking me to come play in the capital,” Cavani said in an interview with CBC Sports.” “My father told me, ‘No, you’re still too young. You can’t go yet. You have to stay with your family. And when you’re a bit older, you can leave your family to find your future.” “That’s what he told me. So I waited. And then when the time



came for me to go to Montevideo, the teams from my hometown said, ‘No, we’ll build you a gym, we’ll build it so you stay here.’ And my father said, ‘No, it’s time for you to go. Now is the time. You have to go now or else you will get behind. Everyone in Montevideo will get ahead of you. You have to go now, so that you can develop and use all your strength to end up on top.” “And that’s what happened. I thank God that I have a father like him. And my mother too, who always supported me in everything. She supported me and was living with me. I really thank God that I have the family I have.” Cavani is very grateful to his parents for teaching him the strong

work ethics he possesses to this day. “I came from a really humble family. My father was a hard worker; both my parents were hard working. And they were always trying to do everything they could to make sure we had a normal life. To make sure that there was enough so that I could go and train, so that I could do what I love, playing football,” Cavani said. He played in the Danubio youth squad for a number of years before being promoted to the senior side in 2005. He made 25 appearances for Danubio scoring nine goals and was part of the squad which won the 2006 Apertura championship in the Uruguayan Primera Division.

His performances impressed the Uruguayan under-20 coach of the time, Gustavo Ferrin, and was called up to take part in the South American Youth Championships in early 2007. And Cavani impressed further scoring a stunning seven goals to help Uruguay finish third in the tournament and earn them a spot in the U-20 World Cup in Canada later that year. His performances caught the attention of many Italian clubs including AC Milan and Juventus but it was Palermo who won his signature announcing his signing just days after the tournament finished. “For me, the best moment was that tournament. I always thank

God for that moment, I thank my team-mates. We had a lot of luck,” Cavani said. Cavani made his debut for Palermo on March 11 against Fiorentina. He came on in the 55th minute of the game with Palermo trailing 1-0 at home, and scored the equaliser just fifteen minutes after coming to secure a 1-1 draw. It was a stunning strike which has even been likened to Marco van Basten’s legendary strike in the Final of Euro ‘88. A week later he made his starting debut for Palermo against Sampdoria in another 1-1 draw and was again the only goal scorer for the Rosanero. He went on and made five more appearance for the rest of the season but was un-able to add to his tally of two goals. At the 2007 U-20 World Cup in Canada, Cavani scored the first goal in a 2-2 draw with Spain before scoring the only goal in Uruguay’s 1-0 win over Jordan, but couldn’t score in the third match as Uruguay lost 2-0 to Zambia and were eliminated in the group stages. In the 2007/08 season he made 37 appearances in all competitions for Palermo but only netted five times, all of them coming in the Serie A. He was finding it difficult though to get a starting place in the team, fighting for position with Amauri and Fabrizio Miccoli. In early 2008 he was called up for the Uruguay squad for a friendly match against Colombia in Montevideo on February 6, and scored a goal on his international debut on home soil in a 2-2 draw. With Amauri departing to Juventus after the 2007/08 season it gave Cavani the opportunity to cement

his place in the Palermo starting eleven. He scored an impressive 14 goals in 35 appearances for Palermo in the 2008/09 season creating a great relationship with attacking partner Fabrizio Miccoli. In the 2009/10 Serie A season Cavani scored 13 goals in 34 appearances and was instrumental in ensuring Palermo finished in fifth position and qualified for the following seasons Europa League. In April 2010 he signed a new contract with Palermo that would keep him at the club until June 2014. His impressive performances for Palermo earned him a spot in Oscar Tabarez’s 23 man squad for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Uruguay achieved its best performance in South Africa since the 1970 World Cup in Mexico when where they also reached the semi-finals of the competition. Diego Forlan was crowned the tournaments best player, but the performances of his team-mates, namely Luis Suarez and Cavani himself, did not go un-noticed. Cavani was played out of position by Tabarez, on the wings, but was just as effective as he set-up the only goal in the match against Mexico for Suarez and scored the first of Uruguay’s two goals against Germany in the third-place play-off match. Right after the World Cup Napoli signed Cavani on loan, in what proved to be one of the best signings of the 2010/11 Serie A season. At 24 years of age Cavani has already achieved so much. And after his stay at Napoli was made permanent a fortnight ago, he can easily become one of Napoli’s, and even Uruguay’s, all-time greats.

Postcards from Hong Kong

By Daniel Iaconis

I’m in Hong Kong holla city of squalor! But unlike the movie Hangover 2 there’s no ‘roofies’, no attractive lady-boys - well none that I can pick out anyway - no ping-pong shows, drug dealing monkeys or the like (and yes I realise the movie was set in Bangkok Thailand but just go with it ok?). Instead I’m confronted by hordes of annoying Indian hawkers, street food stands, shopping malls, escalators, large crowds, massive buildings, crap coffee, restaurants, more shopping malls, an efficient transport system, an empty bank balance, an impressive McDonald’s menu and other tasteful wonders. But the real Honkers isn’t about Dim Sum halls or suckling pig. Oh no it’s all about Football, a throw-back to the city’s time as the jewel in the British Empire’s crown, and if you’re still able to walk by 12am in this crazy booze town then you might stumble into a bar full of intoxicated football loving locals, adorned in official English Premier League attire, watching a Premier League game or two. But what of Hong Kong’s domestic league? The fact that it took until my fifth day to encounter any evidence of a domestic league actually existing in Hong Kong is indicative of a pandemic faced by many other countries in Asia; whereby their inhabitants are finding it easier to affiliate themselves with clubs 6,000 miles away, like Manchester United and Chelsea, than with clubs in their own backyard.



AFC Cup action between Hong Kong’s South China AA and India’s East Bengal. Photos: DANIEL IACONIS

It’s not like Hong Kong is without an established league, the Hong Kong First Division has been in existence since 1908. The problem lies in the way in which this city has been financially and commercially exploited by European clubs who tour Asia in their off-season with the hope of signing a few new sponsors and capitalising on kit sales and the local competition is often shunned in favour the more appealing European leagues. Super Soccer, a football only cable station, shows highlights of matches played across Europe along with an hour length analysis of all things European football, but there is nothing mentioned of the local game. Not a word. In fact it’s only through reading the South China Morning Post that I become aware of an AFC Cup match – the AFC’s version of the Europa League – featuring Hong

Kong’s very own super club South China AA, who have won a record 40 league titles, and India’s East Bengal to be played the next night at the aptly named Hong Kong Stadium. So after being dragged in and out of shops for the past five days by the misses, I decided then and there that I was going to experience Hong Kong football first hand and after getting directions off the concierge at my hotel, I set off on my first Asian football adventure. As I wait for my train to arrive at Tsim Sha Tsui station I can’t help but feel disappointed at there being no apparent sign of South China supporters on the platform or on the train. My disappointment didn’t last long however, as no sooner had I reached my destination at Causeway Bay than I was met by a sea of red and white clad supporters

who were squeezing their way up the subway escalators and bleeding out onto the streets of Times Square. We push through the crowd and ride the sea of red through the busy streets of the concrete jungle. We go up hills, around corners and cross busy streets until finally we are confronted by the 40,000 seater Hong Kong Stadium which rises out from the shadows of the city’s skyscrapers. Once inside the stadium we are drawn by the common sounds of beating drums and chanting, but to our amazement we find that the North and South ends of the stadium are empty. Instead all the noise comes from the South China fans sitting in the West end of the ground and so we dully take our seats amongst all the action. Its 15 minutes before kick-off and the players are still out on the pitch



Terrace view from Hong Kong Stadium. Photos: DANIEL IACONIS

going through their warm ups. I spot two familiar faces warming up for the home side in former Manchester United and Newcastle United midfielder Nicky Butt and former PSV Eindhoven, Chelsea and PSG striker Mateja Kezman. Then something remarkable happens before kick-off when the crowd of 7,000 stand and applaud a man sitting in a press box waving like a rock star. I later find out that the bloke is in fact South China Chairman Steven Lo who is like Hong Kong’s Eddie McGuire, only popular. The quality of the match is at best mediocre and it’s immediately apparent that both Butt and Kezman are bereft of the sort of touch and skill that saw them become regular starters for some of the biggest clubs in Europe. The crowd starts to get restless as

both sides butcher chances in front of goal, while the home fans look to be increasingly frustrated at the lack of quality being exercised by their ‘world class’ duo who by the start of the second half look tired and uninterested. Then it happens. Kezman eventually scores off a header in the 69th minute and 7,000 fans suddenly feels like 70,000 as the crowd lets loose with a collective relaxing of the shoulders. Suddenly the chanting starts up again the fans aren’t as tense as they were five minutes ago. The game ends at 1-0 to South China. The sea of red disperses and dilutes through the tiny alley ways and narrow lanes surrounding the stadium like angry little ants, rushing to get back to their busy lives in the city.

Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

Socceroos will host Serbia in an international friendly match at Etihad Stadium tomorrow night (Tuesday 7th June - 7.30pm kick-off).

This will be the second time that the Qantas Socceroos will face Serbia having met for the first time at the 2010 FIFA World Cup when the Qantas Socceroos won 2-1 in the group stage of the tournament.

Serbia is currently 16th in the FIFA World Rankings with the Socceroos in 20th position.

Considered one of the most technically gifted football nations in world football, GW's Alex Milic takes a look at the visiting Serbian party.

Goalkeepers

Bojan Saranov – OFK Beograd

Saranov is one of the best domestic goalkeepers and his brilliant saves have caught the eye of the two big clubs in Serbian football. He is also the captain of OFK Beograd and is looking to become the national teams number one.

Damir Kahrman – Tavriya (UKR)

Made his name for local club Vojvodina and the Serbia U21 side where he was the undisputed number one. He was part of the side that reached the Euro 2007 U21 final, in which Serbia lost to The Netherlands. Named in the Team of the tournament.

Defenders

Aleksandar Kolarov – Manchester City (ENG)

The left back is coming off a successful first season at Manchester City in which he is a regular first team player. His bursts down the left flank and fantastic left foot are his key abilities. Part of the Serbia U21 side that reached the 2007 Euro final, voted in team of the tournament and played at the 2008 Olympic Games, so this isn't the first time Kolarov will face an Australian side.

Milan Bisevac – Valenciennes (FRA)

Solid centre back who has been one of the best defenders in the French League for the last five years with Lens and Valenciennes. He's caught the interest of the title contenders and will most likely move to a bigger French club next season. Played at the Euro 2004 U21 Championships where Serbia lost in the Final to Italy. Was also part of the team that played at the 2004 Olympic Games and played against the Olyroos.

Ivan Obradovic – Real Zaragoza (ES)

Made his mark with Partizan Belgrade

Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

An experimental Spanish first eleven made light work of the USA at Gillette Stadium Foxborough, Massachusetts in front of a 60,000+ crowd.

With the likes of team captain Iker Casillas, and midfield maestro Andres Iniesta on the bench, Manchester City's David Silva, Seville's Alvaro Negredo and Villarreal's Santi Cazorla to were given the opportunity to show their worth. That they did, the trio had combined many times during the first half to go into the halftime break 3 goals to the good. David Silva simply danced Flamenco style around the USA defense, constantly finding space and setting up opportunities for the Spanish forward line to strike on goal. Santi Cazorla hit the back of the USA net twice, Alvaro Negredo also got a goal, whilst Barcelona's David Villa twice came close to scoring in the first half, both times his strike on goal was just wide of the mark.

Match Details

Socceroos v Serbia

Etihad Stadium, Melbourne, Victoria

Tuesday, 7 June 2011

Kick-Off time – 7:30pm AEST

Gates Open – 5:30pm AEST

Ticketing Details

Category A - \$85 all tickets

Category B - \$55 Adult, \$30 Concession, \$140 Family

Category C - \$35 Adult, \$20 Concession, \$90 Family

Check www.footballaustralia.com.au/tickets for details

Socceroos Squad

Alex BROSQUE, GK Nathan COE, GK Mitchell LANGERAK, GK Adam FEDERICI Brett EMERTON, , Brett HOLMAN , Mile JEDINAK, Josh KENNEDY, Neil KILKENNY, Robbie KRUSE, Jonathan McKAIN, Matthew McKay, Mark MILLIGAN, Lucas NEILL, Sasa OGNENOVSKI, Matthew SPIRANOVIC, Archie THOMPSON, James TROISI, Carl VALERI, Dario VIDOSIC, Rhys WILLIAMS, Luke WILKSHIRE, Michael ZULLO

and earned a call up in a World Cp 2010 Qualifier in which he excelled and was a major part of the Serbia side that qualified for South Africa. The left back was part of the Serbia side at the finals in South Africa. In recent times the 22 year old has been plagued with injuries which have stalled his progress. Is one of the most promising full backs from Serbia.

Neven Subotic – Borussia Dortmund (GER)

The centre back is coming off his best season as a footballer, having won the Bundesliga and being named in the leagues team of theseason. The tall defender is very elegant on the ball and can produce inch perfect passes which start Dortmunds attacks. He's in high demand and Premier League giants Chelsea, Arsenal and Manchester United have all expressed their interest in the 22 year old.

Slobodan Rajkovic – Chelsea (ENG)

Despite not having played a game for Chelsea, Rajkovic has been on loan in the Dutch League in the last three seasons with PSV, Twente and recently Vitesse. Made his debut for the U21s as a 17 year old and was Serbia's youngster player at the 2008 Olympic Games. Can be clumsy at times and very inconsistent but Petrovic has faith in the tall centre back and has once more given him a chance to prove himself.

Nenad Tomovic – Genoa (ITA)

Played on loan last season at Lecce, having just returned from injury. Solid defender who made his name at Serbia's biggest club Red Star. Was also a major part of Serbia's 2008 Olympic Games side.

Milan Vilotic – Red Star

Played at the 2009 Euro U21 Championships in which he excelled thus earning a move to the nation's biggest club. Will most likely make his senior debut



Luke Wilkshire and Milan Ivanovic at the World Cup in South Africa 2010. Photo: SMP Images

against Australia.

Midfielders

Zoran Tosic – CSKA Moskva (RUS)

Made his name in Serbia with Banat and then Partizan before securing a dream move to Manchester United where he failed to earn a first team place. Was loaned out to Koln in the Bundesliga and became the sides best player having only played for 6 months for the club. Signed for Russian giants CSKA and is a first team regular. Known for his pace and technique he doesn't shy away from dribbling and having a shot. Can be selfish at times.

Adem Ljajic – Fiorentina (ITA)

Made his name at Partizan was then bought by Manchester United who would then sell him to Fiorentina. Coming off a solid first season in the Serie A in which he has played a vital part of the viola side. Great ball control and technique, can play behind the striker, his job is to provide the strikers with balls.

Dejan Stankovic – Inter (ITA)

A mainstay in the Serbia squad for more than a decade. Has played at 3 World Cups and has won over 20 trophies with Red Star, Lazio and Inter. Can play in all of the midfield positions and is known for his shots from distance. Scored from halfway against Schalke. Will lead the Serbs in Melbourne.

Radosav Petrovic – Partizan

Talented midfielder who is key at set pieces and has a fantastic shot on him. Has scored quite a few goals from dis-

tance and will most likely leave Partizan for a stronger league next season. Scored a cracker against Korea and will get game time against Australia.

Zdravko Kuzmanovic – Stuttgart (GER)

You can compare him to Sergio Busquets, a no nonsense holding midfielder who tends to pass the ball back more than forward. Has great tackling ability and can break the opponent's attacks with ease and instantly produce an attack for his side. One of Stuttgart's best payers this season.

Veseljko Trivunovic – OFK Beograd

The 31 year old has been one of the Serbian SuperLiga's best players and scored a great goal against Israel. It's a surprise he is only now playing for the Serbian side but is taking every opportunity with both hands. The only player in the side with a creative mind.

Marko Miric – Spartak

One of the domestic leagues finest players, Miric has been given an opportunity by Petrovic who feels the side lacks a creative player and too many selfish wingers. Miric has been solid in his few Serbia matches and will look to establish himself as a First Team player not a fringe player in Australia.

Dusan Petronijevic – Borac Cacak

A surprise inclusion into the squad, Petronijevic had a solid season at Borac. It's unlikely he will be used in Melbourne but a fantastic experience for the 27 year old nonetheless. Made his debut

against Korea.

Branislav Jovanovic – Rad

Another surprise selection. Jovanovic is one of Rad Belgrade's best players and even he couldn't believe a call up to the national team for the two friendlies. Will look to prove himself and justify Petrovic's call up. May get some game time in Melbourne but unlikely.

Forwards

Ranko Despotovic – Girona (ESP)

Was the clubs top scorer this season with 18 goals for the Segunda Liga outfit. Was one of the Serbian Leagues top scoreres in previous years. 28 years old now, he is at his playing peak so the match against Australia will be a great test for Despotovic in a chance to secure a regular call up for the national team.

Brana Ilic – Vojvodina

Played at numerous clubs in the Serbian leagues and another surprise call up. Ilic only managed 8 goals this season for Vojvodina so even he himself will look at this opportunity as his only chance to wear the 'red' of Serbia. Made his debut against Korea. Good on the ball but is a poor finisher.

Jovan Damjanovic – Borac Cacak

Another domestic player and another surprise selection. Damjanovic only managed 8 goals this season but to his standards that's a lot. Will most likely receive a chance against Australia having played a few minutes in his debut against Korea.



Villarreal striker Santo Cazorla scored twice for the Spanish

sale to boost Real's funds. Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho denied plans to sell of Higuain to buy Aguero, but stopped short of stating he did not wish to have Aguero in his squad; "Contrary to recent media reports, Real Madrid are not tracking Sergio Aguero and I have not asked chairman Florentino Perez to sign him.

But, that does not change the fact that he is a great player. ...

Aguero belongs to Atletico Madrid

and, if he wants to leave, he should talk things over with his club before speculation continues in regard to his near future".

June 04, 2011

Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, USA Crowd: 64, 121

USA 0 Spain 4

Goalscorers (Spain): Santi Cazorla '28, '41, Alvaro Negredo '32, Fernando Torres '73.

SHORT PASSES

HIBS STAR JOINS GLORY

MIDFIELDER Liam Miller has left Hibernian to join Perth Glory on a two year deal, the Australian A-League side announced late last week.

Miller, 30, made his international debut for the Republic of Ireland in 2004 against the Czech Republic and has played 21 games for Celtic. Miller was also part of the Irish squad that won the UEFA U-17 Championship in 1998.

The former Manchester United and Celtic attacking midfielder also had stints with Leeds United, QPR and Sunderland and will arrive in Perth ahead of the Glory's glamour friendly against Celtic on July 9.

Miller is the ninth new player signed by Perth Glory for the 2011/12 season. He joins Danny Vukovic, Neil Young, Evan Berger, Dean Heffernan, Adam Hughes, Travis Dodd, Shane Smeltz and Jesse Makarounas as new faces for the coming season.



Liam Miller

ROBBIE FOWLER LEAVES GLORY

LIVERPOOL legend Robbie Fowler advised that he won't be returning to Perth Glory for the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season due to family reasons.

Fowler said the decision not to play a second season in the West had been extremely tough to make.

"I have a wonderful and loving family to consider and with the children in school, it's best to keep them settled. "I also need to stay in the UK to complete my coaching badges.

Fowler also said he was currently not in discussions with any other clubs.

Glory is now planning to have Fowler return to Perth for the international friendly against Celtic on July 9 as a special guest.



Robbie Fowler

Joeys Squad for U-17 World Cup

Joeys Head Coach Jan Versleijen announced his final 21-player squad for the FIFA U-17 World Cup which kicks off in Mexico later this month.

Nicholas ANSELL (*Melb Victory*), **Corey BROWN** (*AIS*), **Connor CHAPMAN** (*AIS*), **Mitch COOPER** (*Gold Coast*), **Milos DEGENEK** (*AIS*), **Hernan ESPINDOLA** (*AIS*), **Paul IZZO** (*gk*) (*AIS*), **Teeboy KAMARA** (*AIS*), **Tom KING** (*Liverpool FC*), **Jesse MAKAROUNAS** (*AIS*), **Stefan MAUK** (*AIS*), **Jacob MELLING** (*AIS*), **Jake MONACO** (*AIS*), **Mitchell OXBORROW** (*AIS*), **Yianni PERKATIS** (*AIS*), **Anthony PROIA** (*AIS*, **Luke REMINGTON** (*NNSWIS*), **Daniel SADAKA** (*gk*) (*Sutherland Sharks*) **Lachlan TIBBLES** (*gk*) (*AIS*), **Dylan TOMBIDES** (*West Ham United*), **Riley WOODCOCK** (*AIS*).

The Joeys travel to Mexico on Wednesday 8 June for a pre-tournament camp in Pachuca, where they will play friendly matches against Canada (13 June) and Uruguay (15 June). They will then move to their base camp in the city of Guadalajara, during the first phase of the tournament on the 16 June.

The Joeys will play their first match of the tournament against Côte d'Ivoire on Monday 20 June, and then face Brazil on Thursday 23 June before their final group match against Denmark on Sunday 26 June.

Thunder Appeal Dismissed

Football Federation Victoria (FFV) announced last Tuesday that an independent Appeals Board has dismissed an appeal made by Dandenong Thunder against the FFV Tribunal's recent ruling against the club.

This was the third serious offence by the club and its supporters during the past 14 months involving spitting, assaulting and or verbally abusing referees.

FFV exercises a zero tolerance policy particularly with respect to offences involving match officials and Dandenong Thunder has been repeatedly fined and warned about this type of anti-social behaviour.

As a result of persistent anti-social behaviour, Dandenong Thunder will be penalised six points, an accumulated fine of \$20,000 and its next two home matches are to be played behind closed doors.

In addition, the fines of \$2,000 imposed by the independent Tribunal on two Dandenong Thun-



The events at George Andrews cost Thunder on and off the field

der club associates remain in place.

FFV CEO, Mark Rendell, said he was disappointed that a leading Victorian Premier League club continues to achieve high standards on the pitch but was unwilling to match these standards off the pitch, by supporting a zero tolerance approach to anti-

social behaviour.

"I strongly urge the club leadership to take action against the persistent so called 'supporters' who are dragging the club down again," Mr Rendell said.

"FFV has broad community support for its zero tolerance programs and would not retreat in its approach to ensure all clubs pro-

vide a safe and family friendly environment."

Latest statistics highlight that with the support of the players and clubs, FFV's zero tolerance approach is starting to be fully understood by participants. As a result, along with the drop in red and yellow card offences, there is also an overall reduction in the number of players suspended, fines given and matters being heard by the FFV Tribunal / Appeals Board.

The Appeals Board is an independent tribunal and the panel was chaired by a Senior Counsel and two Barristers. Dandenong Thunder has the right to appeal to Football Federation Australia.

The Dandenong Thunder home match lock-out will commence on Saturday 25 June against Northcote City at George Andrews Reserve.

DUE TO THE QUEENS BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND GOAL! WEEKLY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE NEXT MONDAY.

OUR NEXT EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY 20TH JUNE.





BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

Finally, a verdict from the Dandenong Thunder tribunal appeal. And possible movement on the Melbourne Victory coaching front, but more on that later.

For Dandenong, the six point deduction remained, with the fine being increased from \$8000 to \$20000 with the number of games the must play behind closed doors cut from four to two. The news made both of Melbourne's major papers during the week, no doubt because it was trumpeted in an official FFV Media Release. What a shame a FFV Media Release can't get the game some positive coverage of it's competitions in either the Herald-Sun or The Age. Promoting the actual game must run a close second behind promoting the FFV's zero-tolerance approach on anti-social behaviour.

Strong word around town is that Melbourne Victory have settled on a coach and an announcement is imminent. Such a long and exhaustive process may leave a few underwhelmed when caretaker Mehmet Durakovic is appointed full-time after some big overseas names were linked earlier in proceedings.

Harry Kewell is the latest big name being linked to Melbourne Victory. Apparently in may all depend on if Sheree Murphy is linked to a role in Neighbours.

In Katsaspeak, over to the House of Zurich we go. International Federation Power Brokers



Everybody needs good neighbours....even the Kewell's. We did say 'good' didn't we.....?

have been in the news, as Sepp Blatter was challenged for the FIFA leadership. It was a Happy Ending for Sepp, as he soon had his challenger accused of corruption and eventually withdrawing from the race. Now promising reform, FIFA are reported to be engaging veteran US diplomat Henry Kissinger to clean up the mess. At the age of eighty-eight, don't be suprised if his first point in any five year plan to clean up FIFA is "Don't die!"

Interesting to see Craig Foster comment on Australia supporting Blatter instead of joining the English-led protest vote by having another go at Ben Buckley. On matters of such gravity, I would suspect the decision lies with Frank Lowy himself, not his Chief Executive. Either Foster lacks the intestinal

fortitude to attack the FFA Chairman, or he just can't put aside his bias.

Not only have New Zealand somehow gotten a team into our A (for Australian, mate!) League, but now they have taken to attending VPL games and winning OUR club raffles. It's a scandal I tell you, and why I always vote for the parties that promise to increase border security.

Ljubo Milicevic has left South Melbourne, back to the big time in Europe. Maybe one day he will write a book on his experiences, and the only title it could have would have to be "I Played Champion's League" because "How To Win Friends and Influence People" has already been done.



KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

Welcome to Melbourne's winter, where Club Powerbrokers search for warmth and "comforting", more so those that are already mapping out their direct course to the Westgate at Season's end.

Caution needs to be taken though, as it would not be a good idea to use a skate board as one young lad did this week, where he attempted to Skate through the City Link Tunnel on a Skateboard, throwing peak hour traffic into chaos.

Then again, I don't think they make Skateboards these days, able to cope with the average Club Powerbrokers weight.

Club Powerbrokers, especially those charged with the responsibility of taking care of the Pop Star's welfare, at times act as Lost and Found Officers, as Pop Stars have a habit of losing not only items required on Match/Training Days, (for the uneducated, Shorts, Socks, Boots), but also personal effects.

One Club Powerbroker recently found a Mobile Phone at his Club's Training Venue and as the Players had left, had to scour the phone for clues as to who it belonged to.

What better place than the Stored Messages on their, and having read the first message, which was sent from the Pop Star to the recipient of the Pop Star's "urges", where it described in detail how happy he was to have performed certain "Acts" with the lady in question the night before, the Club Powerbroker decided that where there was one quality message, their would be

many more to follow.

After a quick stop to the local Bottle -O-, where he purchased a Bottle of J Walker, plus some Cigars, the Club Powerbroker then settled down for the night reading the many messages being exchanged between the Pop Star, and the Pop Starrete, its contents were certainly an eye opener, and made any J Holmes Movies look like a pantomime.

At the next training session, in order to protect the Guilty, this Club Powerbroker asked the Team if any one had lost their mobile phone, knowing full well who the Mobile belonged to, and up popped it's owner who then asked, the Club Powerboker, "Have you read any of my Messages on their"

The Club Powerbroker though, having played "many" Games, in all conditions, wet dry and snow, responded with a definite No, however he did ask the Pop Star if his Girlfriend comes to the Club to watch him play, and more importantly as the Girlfriend was a touch out of the Club Powerbrokers age bracket, if her Mum ever came down to watch him play.

There are number of things that the local Soccer Fraternity has been waiting for to be announced, with baited breath.

One was the outcome of the Dandenong Thunder VS House OF Darebin Appeal, results of which was announced this week, and the news was far from good for the Dandy Boys, as most penalties, in-

cluding the loss of 6 points, stood.

The other is who will be Ernie's replacement at Melbourne Victory.

This one has gone very quiet with the Victory Board keeping their options very close to their chests.

Over to South Melbourne we go, where the Drums are certainly a beating recently, with Fans directing their angst towards Coach and fellow columnist, Eddie Krncevic, as results of late have been a touch ordinary

South used the VPL Transfer Roller Door to bolster their playing ranks, however have suffered numerous Sad Ends of late and things will certainly need to turn around in Games to come so as to appease the Fans, as complaining fans can cloud Club Powerbrokers thinking.

Over to Katsa's Odd spot we go, where in Shirley Valentine Land, a recently married bride asked guests to contribute to the cost of her secret desire, and that was, to make her "Head Lights" larger.

And she was not disappointed as they certainly tipped in, and her dream will soon, be becoming a reality.

My advise to her after Surgery, avoid Hot Showers, and keep away from any direct Heat, as Silicon has a bad habit of "oozing" at the wrong moment.

Until next week

This is Katsa - just as You Have Known Him.

The FURNITURE
those rich people
DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE





EXCLUSIVE, YES. EXPENSIVE? NO.

www.adriatic.com.au

Charlie Yankos

**BLAST
FROM
THE PAST**



With Roy Hay

Those who saw 'that goal' will never forget it, the 35-metre screamer against the World champion Argentinians in 1988, but Charlie Yankos was much more than just the scorer of remarkable long distance goals.

He personified the Socceroos under the coaching regime of Frank Arok. Promoted by the wily coach as 'mad dogs', when it suited his mind games, their skipper Yankos could blend steely determination and total commitment with much more skill, tactical nous, and finesse than he was given credit for. Like Kenny Dalglish he had a big backside, tremendous power in his legs and he made the opposition come to him and play on his terms. He played 86 games for his country, including 49 A-internationals between 1983 and 1990, and scored 11 international goals.

Charlie Yankos was born in Melbourne on 29 May 1961. He represented Australia as a schoolboy and joined Heidelberg United in the National Soccer League in 1979 and made his debut for the club in Round One of the 1981 season at nineteen. The team he joined that day included Jeff Olver, Arthur McMillan, Pat Bannon, John Yzen-doorn, Jim Campbell, Jim Rooney, Theo Selemedis, Jamie Paton, Gary Cole, Andy Bozikas, Bob Provan and Ken Taylor. Manny Poulakakis was the coach and Heidelberg drew two-all away to APIA at Lambert Park. He was a regular in the team very soon and helped Heidelberg to the National Conference grand final in 1984, going down to the eventual national champion and perennial rival South Melbourne. Heidelberg led two-one when Yankos was sent off after a tackle on Oscar Crino,

who had earlier nearly broken his leg in a collision, and South scored three times in the second half.

After six season with the Bergers he transferred to West Adelaide Hellas in 1986, then moved to APIA Leichardt in 1987 helping the club win the NSL championship that year. Rale Rasic was the coach and APIA had a top side, including Terry Greedy, Tony Pezzano, Vic Bozanic, Dave Ratcliffe, Arno Bertogna, Terry Butler, Peter Tredinnick, and Marshal Soper. APIA finished the league with a six-point gap to Preston but lost the final of a post-season play-off series to St George. However this was not counted as part of the championship that year. In 1988-89 he had a season in Greece with PAOK Salonika, but then returned to Blacktown City for the first season of summer football for the NSL. His final move was to Wollongong City where he played from 1990 to 1994, with a brief spell as player-coach at Canterbury-Marrikkville in the New South Wales State League in the winter of 1992.

In June 1983, Les Scheinflug, the Australian coach, made a fateful decision in what he saw as the best interests of the game, to accompany the Young Socceroos to Mexico to participate in the Youth World Cup. When England came on tour in June that year, Sir Arthur George, president of the Australian Soccer Federation, turned to Frank Arok to coach the Socceroos. Arok revamped the national team and awarded Charlie Yankos his first cap on 12 June at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Australia held the English to a scoreless draw in that match with Yankos, David

An indomitable leader



Frank Arok instructs his skipper Charlie Yankos. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

Ratcliffe and Steve O'Connor at the centre of an obdurate defence. In the second match in Brisbane only a single Paul Walsh goal gave the English the victory. The third match in Melbourne produced another draw, this time one-all with Phil Neal conceding an own goal for England just after Trevor Francis had put England ahead.

Two years later Yankos nearly drove the Socceroos to the brink of World Cup qualification going down to Scotland over two legs. I saw both games—at Hampden Park, where Scotland won two-nil and the scoreless draw at Olympic

Park, which Australia deserved to win. For me it was a turning point in my allegiance to the country in which I have lived, rather than where I was born. Yankos was appointed captain of the Socceroos in 1986, succeeding John Kosmina.

In 1988 Yankos led the Socceroos to the final tournament of the Olympic Games in Seoul, where Australia overcame a star-studded Yugoslav team and Nigeria to qualify for the quarter-finals. The team lost to the eventual gold medal winning Soviet Union. Earlier that year Australia got the final of the Bicentennial Gold Cup with a

four-one win over the current world champion Argentina at the Sydney Football Stadium. Yankos scored twice, once from the spot, but it was his earlier strike from a free kick which reduced Martin Tyler for once to near silence. 'Charlie Yankos ... my word!' is all he said. It was enough.

The 1989 qualification campaign was a major disappointment as the Socceroos went down to New Zealand and drew twice with Israel and so failed to progress. Yankos led by example once again with a penalty kick in the four-one win over New Zealand which opened the series

and another stunner against Israel in the away leg which seemed to have put Australia on its way to success. Yankos signed off his international career the following year with a goal in his final match which was a two-all draw against Hajduk Split at Olympic Park.

Charlie Yankos was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services to the game in June 1991 and subsequently has had a business career in real estate and investment.

My thanks to Charlie Yankos for assistance with this article.



Charlie Yankos gets in a header in front of Marshall Soper and Kevin Moran, when the Socceroos played Manchester United in 1984. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



Charlie Yankos gets the better of Warren Spink in an aerial battle in the National Soccer League. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

COPA LIBERTADORES
Uruguayan giants Peñarol are through to the Copa Libertadores final despite their 2-1 loss to Vélez Sarsfield's away at the José Amalfitani stadium in Buenos Aires on Thursday.

A 1-0 win in the home leg in Montevideo last week coupled with Thursday's result was enough to send Peñarol through to a first final in 24 years on away goals.

It will be the second final meeting between the sides in 49 years after Pelé's Santos beat Peñarol in 1962.

A first-half goal from Matías Mier proved vital for Peñarol, while Santiago Rojas stadium in Asunción, Paraguay. Silva missed a late penalty for the hosts which would have sent them through after a dramatic fightback.

Meanwhile last Thursday, Santos staved off a fast-finishing Cerro Porteño to book their spot in the Copa Libertadores final beginning Wednesday week.

The Brazilian club earned their place in the showpiece of South American club football with the 3-3 draw, although it did not come without a scare as Cerro Porteño's fightback created an exciting last 10 minutes inside the General Pablo Rojas stadium in Asunción, Paraguay.

Santos booked their spot in the final where they will face Peñarol in the final with the first-leg to be played in Uruguay on June 15.

Sadly meanwhile after the semi-final match played in the Paraguayan capital, police over there arrested 61 hooligans.

Generally Libertadores Cup fixtures draw huge crowds and intense rivalries across the continent and unfortunately anger, frustration and tempers flared in Asunción as Cerro Porteño supporting thugs have been accused of theft, vandalism and public disorder offences, police reported last Thursday.

The incidents occurred on the fringes of the 3-3 draw Paraguayan side Cerro Porteño conceded against the aforementioned Brazilian club Santos, who qualified for the final having won the first leg 1-0.

The hooligans are accused of public disorder and theft from shops in the suburb of San Lorenzo, just outside on the outskirts of capital Asunción and also clashed with rival travelling Santos supporters as they were heading victoriously back home in two buses to Brazil when police, acting on complaints from shop owners in San Lorenzo, intervened.

MEXICO
Argentine coach Rubén Romano, victim of a kidnapping in 2005, is returning to Guadalajara-based Atlas on a one-year deal, the Mexican club said on Thursday.

It will be the 53-year-old Romano's second spell at the club after coaching them in 2006-07 and he replaces coach and former Mexico international Benjamin Galindo.

Romano, a former midfielder himself who has spent all his coaching career in Mexico since 1998, steered Santos Laguna to two successive league finals last year but was sacked in February for making an insulting gesture to angry Santos fans.

He was also kidnapped when he was coach at Cruz Azul in Mexico City in 2005 and held for 65 days before being freed by federal agents.

COSTA RICA
Prosecutors in Costa Rica have detained the president of a first-division football team in connection with suspicious money transfers from the United States.

Prosecutor Guillermo Hernández says Carlos Howden Pascal, the president of Limón, was detained following investigations into possible contraband tobacco trafficking by a relative in the United States.

The man identified as Howden Pascal's relative allegedly transferred large sums of money to him, after the relative discovered he was under investigation. Investigators say football teams' large cash income from ticket sales can be used to launder money.

CONCACAF GOLD CUP 2011
The Gold Cup kicks off this weekend with the winner heading to the Confederations Cup in Brazil in two

Libertadores prepares for finale



Uruguay's Penarol are through to the Copa Libertadores final despite a 2-1 away loss to Velez Sartsfield.

years' time in 2013. Considering how the USA showed off its 2007 Gold Cup title into preparations for the 2010 World Cup.

The U.S. this time once again will be expecting to be in the Gold Cup Final on June 25 in Pasadena. The most likely opponent for the U.S. will be Mexico but Costa Rica has to be considered a dark horse.

The top two teams in each round-robin group, plus the two best-placed third teams overall, advance to the quarter-finals.

Mexico is the tournament co-favorite. They have a healthy mix of experienced veterans and a talented crop of youngsters, and star Javier 'Chicharito' Hernández should star in this competition.

Giovani dos Santos is also expected to shine, under contract with England's Tottenham Hotspur, but loaned out to Racing Santander in Spain last season, is a creative talent who has shown more at international level than in club action and will be a handful for defences with his wizardry.

The two powerhouses of the region, the **United States and Mexico** will face some strong competition in what promises to be a fascinating tournament with all nations bringing full-strength squads. **Honduras** for instance, who qualified for last year's World Cup finals are bolstered with a full team roster along with the U.S. and Mexico and Costa Rica, who just missed out in a play-off for a spot in South Africa losing to Uruguay, could both offer a strong challenge for the title.

El Salvador, Jamaica and Canada will all be looking to show they have made improvements since the last competition two years ago and the tournament also offers a chance for some of the lesser known players from countries like **Guatemala, Grenada and Panama** to put themselves in the shop window in a tournament which will be closely watched by scouts from the biggest clubs in the world.

PERU AT THE KIRIN CUP, JAPAN
Peru and the Czech Republic finished in a goalless draw in the Kirin Cup on Saturday.

Peru had the best scoring chance late in the match when substitute Jefferson Farfán hit the post with a header in the 83rd minute.

Farfán, the Peruvian Schalke forward in the German Bundesliga also went close midway through the second half with a free kick from the top of the area that sailed just over the crossbar.

Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech was forced to make a diving save against Luis Advincola in the final minute of the first half.

Peru also drew with Japan 0-0 in its opening game on Wednesday in Niigata. Host Japan takes on the Czech Republic in the final match of the tournament on Tuesday.

Still with Peru, top clubs Alianza Lima and Universitario have confirmed a mid-season 4-side tournament with Chilean giants Universidad de Chile and Colo-Colo to be played in both Antofagasta in northern Chile and the Peruvian capital, Lima.

The friendly tourney will be played during the Copa América on the 7th-9th of

July where in the northern Chilean city, Peruvian giants Alianza Lima face arch-enemy Universitario in a double-header with the Chilean derby to be played afterwards.

Then in the second date in Lima, hosts Universitario receive Chilean giants Colo-Colo on the 14th of July whilst Alianza shall host Universidad de Chile. The concluding final is scheduled for the 16th of next month.

CHILE
Universidad de Chile sealed their passage from the semi-final tie after winning last Thursday away in Rancagua and yesterday at home thumping surprise outfit O'Higgins in the Chilean Apertura championship.

A solitary Diego Rivarola goal with minutes to go in the first half did the job as the veteran striker keeps his cemented position in the club as its 'saviour'.

The match played to an entertaining and even, level-headed encounter although Universidad de Chile did retain more possession, a key feature under Argentine coach Jorge Sampaoli.

The return leg played yesterday in Santiago was somewhat more of a different story. After just five minutes, O'Higgins opened the scoring to guarantee the tie at 1-1 on the aggregate score lead through Enzo Gutiérrez. Universidad de Chile however equalised through skillful forward Eduardo Vargas for former Boca Juniors playmaker Guillermo Marino to open things up for a 7-1 rout.

In the other semi final tie hosts Unión La Calera in the central provincial region reached their most successful season in decades and defeated current champions Universidad Católica 2-1 in a match that saw three players sent off for the league leaders.

Club captain and play-maker Milovan Mirosevic got a second bookable offence while wingbacks Rodrigo Valenzuela and Juan Eluchans also shown the red for restless tackles from behind. The return leg is played early today after Goal!Weekly goes to print.

DOOR OPEN FOR PINILLA
Other news this week has quoted national team coach Claudio Borghi speaking out on international and Serie A's Sicilian side Palermo forward Mauricio Pinilla's absence in time for the Copa América. His injury woes are a concern he says however the doors for the national team will "always be open for him".

JOZIC SPEAKS
Meanwhile on the anniversary of twenty years since Colo-Colo won its historic Copa Libertadores triumph - the only club to do so from Chile, victorious Croatian coach Mirko Jozic spoke on local Chilean television.

Jozic assured that the Chilean giant club has not "managed to put football first and business aside" and that he "fulfilled a dream of millions" by winning the 1991 edition of the Libertadores cup.

His concern for the club was the omission of coaches for what he says is a "sign of the times, a lot of people want to see Colo-Colo return to its glory however the club now enlisted on the stock exchange must put football matters a priority and not business management its focus", stating the unnecessary amount of players being signed at the club each

season to later not produce anything at a club that fulfills high expectations".

BRAZIL
National team doctor has reignited hope regarding striker Alexandre Pato that he will likely recover from a shoulder injury to be available for next month's Copa America.

Doctor Jose Luiz Runco says the right shoulder injury Pato sustained in the Serie A final round with AC Milan against Udinese will not keep the striker from participating in the Copa América to be held across Argentina.

Also announced on Thursday was that young playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso of now Copa Libertadores finalists Santos should recover from a right thigh muscle injury and be available for Brazil's title defense.

Brazil, seeking its third straight Copa America title, played an international friendly against the Netherlands in the central city of Goiania on Saturday. The result went tied goalless after a sluggish first half in which Brazil rarely penetrated the tight Dutch defense, the home side appeared energized in the second spell, but its chances mainly ended in the safe arms of Dutch goalkeeper Tim Krul.

The Netherlands often took the attack into Brazil territory and forced some brilliant saves by Julio Cesar before 30,000 people at Serra Dourada Stadium.

The match was the first between the pair since the Dutch eliminated Brazil in the World Cup quarterfinals last year.

Tomorrow on Tuesday, Brazil will meet Romania in a friendly in Sao Paulo. That match will mark the farewell for former Brazil star Ronaldo, who retired from football this year. He is expected to play only a few minutes before being honored at halftime.

The Dutch and Romania games are serving as a preparation by Brazil for its Copa America title defense in July in Argentina.

Brazil coach Mano Menezes has said he will pick his final squad for the South American championship after the match against Romania.

ARGENTINA
As expected, Manchester City's Carlos Tevez was included in a preliminary squad to fight for the Copa America on behalf of Argentina, as coach Sergio Batista released the names of 26 players who will train in preparation for the South American tournament.

'Carlitos' is one of seven strikers included in the list, as Inter marksman Diego Milito was also included despite appearing to be almost out of contention. Catania goalkeeper Mariano Andujar also edges into the squad, gaining a call-up thanks to Getafe number one Oscar Ustari's knee injury during a training session on Tuesday for the Under-25 team in Nigeria.

The squad will now stay in Buenos Aires training with 'Checho' and the rest of the Albiceleste staff, with locally-based players Diego Valeri, Enzo Pérez, Boca Junior's Luciano Monzón and River Plate goalkeeper Juan Pablo Carrizo given more leave to represent squads in the ongoing Clausura championship.

AFA president Julio Grondona then also turned up the heat on coach Sergio Batista on Thursday following a humiliat-



Neymar booked a place for Santos in the final after drawing 3-3 with Cerro Portorio. The final of the Libertadores Cup will be played between Santos and penarol on June 15th.

ing 4-1 loss to Nigeria.

Grondona, who hired Batista last year after firing Diego Maradona, accused Batista of gambling with "the prestige of the national team." He also blamed him for scheduling Wednesday's friendly against Nigeria and fielding a reserve lineup without stars like Lionel Messi and Carlos Tévez.

Argentina played Poland yesterday, Sunday with the same backup team. The matches come a month before Argentina opens the Copa América—the South American championship.

Expectations and pressure run high in Argentina, which won its last World Cup 25 years ago. Argentina has not won a major title since the Copa América 18 years ago.

"Mourning for the national team shirt," read a headline in Thursday's edition of the sports daily Olé.

"The team was not only thumped," added the daily Clarin. "It waltzed through the match. No matter what players are playing, it's not normal to see an Argentine team go down like this."

Argentina played the match with only two players who were named earlier in the week in the preliminary squad for the Copa América: defender Pablo Zabaleta of Manchester City and Ezequiel Garay of Real Madrid.

"Both displayed alarming play," the newspaper Diario Popular said. "None of the 15 players on the field yesterday, if one judges for what they did in this match, merits being called up again."

*Provisional squad for the Copa America**
Goalkeepers: Sergio Romero (AZ Alkmaar), Juan Pablo Carrizo (River Plate), Mariano Andujar (Catania).

Defenders: Gabriel Milito (Barcelona), Ezequiel Garay (Real Madrid), Nicolás Burdisso (Roma), Javier Zanetti (Inter), Nicolas Pareja and Marcos Rojo (Spartak Moscow), Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City), Luciano Monzón (Boca Juniors).

Midfielders: Javier Mascherano (Barcelona), Lucas Biglia (Anderlecht), Ever Banega (Valencia), Esteban Cambiasso (Inter), Javier Pastore (Palermo), Diego Valeri (Lanús), Enzo Pérez (Estudiantes de La Plata), Fernando Gago (Real Madrid).

Delanteros: Lionel Messi (Barcelona), Angel Di Maria, Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid), Sergio Agüero (Atletico Madrid), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli), Carlos Tévez (Manchester City), Diego Milito (Inter).

D'ALESSANDRO TO ITALY?
Attacking midfielder Andres D'Alessandro has attracted the interest of ambitious Serie A side Roma with his good performances for Brazilian outfit Internacional in the past two seasons, Globoesporte reports.

Roma are keen to add a creative midfielder to their squad in the summer transfer window and have previously been linked with Erik Lamela of River Plate and Ricky Alvarez of Vélez Sarsfield, but they have now apparently turned their attention to D'Alessandro. The 30-year-old started his professional career with River Plate before

moving to Europe in 2003. He never really made an impact at clubs such as Wolfsburg, Portsmouth and Real Zaragoza and returned to Argentina in 2008. D'Alessandro moved to Internacional shortly after and has since become a key player at the club.

His good performances have now aroused the interest of Roma, with the Italian capital side said to be ready to give D'Alessandro another chance to prove his worth in Europe.

ROMA EYES ALVAREZ
AS Roma have also joined the race for Vélez Sarsfield playmaker Ricky Álvarez, according to La Gazzetta dello Sport.

The capital giants missed out on Champions League qualification this season and the club's new owners are determined to make a return to the competition.

Roma and AC Milan had initially set their sights on youngster and revelation River Plate midfielder Erik Lamela, but they have now reportedly turned their attention to the 23-year-old instead.

Arsenal have also been linked with a swoop for Alvarez, who has three years left on his current deal, and a source close to Vélez.

BERIZZO QUILTS
Eduardo Berizzo has quit as Estudiantes coach following a series of poor results, only four months after being hired.

Berizzo had replaced Alejandro Sabella, who surprised the club by stepping away just weeks after winning the Apertura title. Berizzo announced his resignation Monday in a note to the club's top two officials, Marcelo Malaspina and Eduardo Vera.

Sunday's 2-0 loss to Independiente prompted the resignation. Estudiantes trails leader Vélez Sarsfield by 11 points.

Berizzo most recently served as an assistant to Marcelo Bielsa with Chile's national team, which reached the second round of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

MESSI AVOIDS PUNCH
Finally, Lionel Messi was left unharmed last week when a youngster apparently threw a punch at him as he was leaving a restaurant in his home city of Rosario on Thursday.

The assailant was among a throng of people looking for autographs from the Barcelona star, a witness told Argentine TV. It was not clear if the punch landed, or what the intent was. Messi went on signing autographs.

Messi tried to play down the incident on his Facebook page.

"To relax all those people that have asked us about the truth of the accident coming out of the restaurant, tell them I did not receive any blow from anyone. I'm perfectly OK," he wrote.

Messi arrived in Rosario, about 500 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, this week for a holiday before practice starts next week for the Copa América—the South American championship as the tournament opens July 1 with hosts Argentina facing northern neighbours Bolivia.



Sydney Olympic's NSW Premier League lead was shaved to a single point on Saturday night as they crashed 3-0 away to the Bonnyrigg White Eagles, while their closest rivals Sutherland held off a late fightback to defeat the South Coast Wolves 2-1 at home. In Saturday's other match, Marconi cruised to a 3-0 victory in the "Italian derby" against APIA-Leichhardt; details of that one can be found below.

In Sunday's games, Sydney United were once again held to a 2-2 draw, this time by Bankstown City, and remain in third place on the table. Blacktown shot into the top five with an emphatic 3-0 win away to Manly United, while Parramatta FC's miserable return to the competition continued with a 4-1 loss to Rockdale City at Bicentennial Park.

Marconi Stallions 3-0 APIA-Leichhardt

Two superb individual goals and a debatable penalty were enough to give Marconi a comfortable victory over APIA-Leichhardt in a game which the visiting side never quite got to grips with.

Although APIA had the better of the early exchanges, the use of Franco Parisi as a lone striker never looked likely to be effective, and their promising attacking forays came to nought. At the other end, Marconi scored a stunning opener after only 11 minutes. Matthew Mayora slipped past the APIA defence, forcing Jose Bello Amigo to rush off this line to clear; the ball subsequently reached Andrew Mailer on the right, and the Marconi right-back curled a brilliant left-footed shot past Bello Amigo.

A dispirited APIA, their defence not coping with the pace of Mayora and Josh Sama, nearly conceded a second a few minutes later. A slick interchange of passes on the right ended with Sean O'Connell nudging the ball across to his captain Nahuel Arrarte, in space in the centre; this time, Bello Amigo made a splendid one-handed save to keep his side in the contest.

On 16 minutes APIA had their best

GAP CLOSES AS OLYMPIC FALTER



FNSW action from Bonnyrigg White Eagles' 3-0 defeat of league leader Sydney Olympic. Photos: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW



NSW Results
ROUND 11: FIRST GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (Jamie McMaster 21m Takuya Murayama 82m Chris Tadrosse 88m) Sydney Olympic 0, Marconi Stallions 3 (Andrew Mailer 12m Nahuel Arrarte 52m Matthew Gordon 92m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0, South Coast Wolves 1 (Saso Petrovski 60m) Sutherland Sharks 2 (Christopher Price 19m Matthew Bailey 51m), Rockdale City Suns 4 (Joshua Lawson 41m James Monie 46m Jason Naidovski 56/65m) Parramatta FC 1 (Kutaiba Elrich 8m), Manly United FC 0 Blacktown City FC 3 (Milorad Siminovic 23m Luke Roodenburg 44m Travis Major 83m), Sydney United 2 (Benjamin Vidaic 75m Steven Hayes 80m) Bankstown City 2 (Salameh Hussein 49m David Gardiner 85m),.
GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Sydney Olympic 3, Marconi Stallions 2 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2, South Coast Wolves 1 Sutherland Sharks 4, Rockdale City Suns 0 Parramatta FC 0, Manly United FC 0 Blacktown City FC 2, Sydney United 3 Bankstown City 1.

Next Round
Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Parramatta Bonnyrigg Sports Club 7:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Marconi Stallions vs Bankstown City Marconi Stadium 7:30 PM Sat 11/Jun
Sydney Olympic vs South Coast Wolves Belmore Sports Grnd 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun
Manly United FC vs Sydney United Cromer Park 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun
APIA Leichhardt vs Rockdale City Suns Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun
Blacktown City vs Sutherland Sharks Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun

Standings								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	11	7	2	2	21	11	10	23
2 Sutherland Sharks	11	6	1	4	17	13	4	22
3 Sydney United	11	5	2	4	21	13	8	19
4 Blacktown City FC	11	5	4	2	16	11	5	17
5 Marconi Stallions	11	4	3	4	15	9	6	16
6 Bonnyrigg WE	11	4	3	4	18	14	4	16
7 Rockdale City	11	4	5	2	11	15	-4	14
8 Manly United FC	11	3	3	5	17	22	-5	14
9 APIA Leichhardt	11	3	4	4	15	19	-4	13
10 Bankstown City	11	3	6	2	15	20	-5	11
11 South Coast	11	3	7	1	12	20	-8	10
12 Parramatta FC	11	1	8	2	11	22	-11	5



Jarrod Ellis

The most anticipated match of the round in the QSL over the weekend was undoubtedly the clash between Brisbane Strikers and FNQ Bulls at Perry Park. With both teams having only recently found form after a run of poor results the focus for both teams was on gaining maximum points.

The fixture was made just that bit harder for the home side when striker Sean Burke and centre-back Ben Griffin were forced to withdraw from the squad. Faced with the absence of two trusted performers Brisbane coach David Large replaced them with Matt Christensen and Ryan Mottin, drafting in youth players to stock what was a subs bench very much short on experience.

Typically, the Bulls made it obvious early in the match that they had not come to Perry Park to defend. They had the better of a lively opening ten minutes, midfielder Steven Dunn heading a Cameron Morrison corner kick over the Strikers' crossbar and Josh De Nittiis ensuring the home defence had a torrid time on the flanks.

Not taking advantage of their early superiority would come back to haunt the Bulls as only minutes later they found themselves 1-0 down.

The goal arrived against the run of play, Brisbane's Chris Maher leading a counter-attack before whipping a cross into the Bulls penalty

Strikers Scrape By Bulls

area, the ball deflecting off a defender and out beyond the area only for Chris Di Sipio to react first and smash a volley past Jack Richards and into the net.

After conceding such an unexpected goal FNQ could have been expected to go through a down period but the Bulls are made of sterner stuff than that and wasted no time putting pressure right back on the home side. De Nittiis, David Ruiz and Joe Rusch combined well, forcing Brendan White into some superb saves.

Creating chances wasn't a problem for the visitors but turning those chances into goals was a massive struggle. Brisbane's White proving the equal to any and all efforts that the Bulls could muster.

Forced to play largely on the counter Brisbane were struggling to create chances, but as can so often be the case in football sometimes only one chance is enough.

Some clever play from Di Sipio in the center of the park sent Matt Thurtell through on goal, Bulls defender Kane Alderton then sending him sprawling to the turf with a clumsy challenge in the area.

Referee Jarred Gillett was left with little choice and pointed to the spot, Thurtell picking himself up off the ground and placing his shot past Richards to give the Strikers a 2-0 lead.

Brisbane were forced on to the back foot for most of the remainder of the first half as the Bulls searched for a goal to get them back in the contest. But the home side defended well, Nick Robinson in particular reading the play well and intercepting passes



Bundaberg Spirit's Shane Youngberry has his prayers answered after scoring against Gold Coast Stars. Alas, the Spirit went down fighting by 4 goals to 1. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

as the Bulls closed in on his penalty area.

The second half produced much of the same, the Bulls having the better of proceedings but were unable to make their chances count. Rusch spurned several good opportunities throughout the half, his last and perhaps best chance came in the 85th minute, a close range effort that was pushed away by White.

With time counting down the Bulls players looked visibly disappointed

at having failed to make an impact on the scoreboard. When Ruiz tangled with Robinson in the Strikers' penalty area the Bulls had a penalty appeal turned down and it became apparent that it simply wasn't going to be their night as the match finished with the half-time score unchanged.

Elsewhere on Saturday night Whitsunday Miners hosted Capricorn Cougars, the Miners looking to put behind them two heartbreaking in-

jury time losses over the past two rounds.

The home side wasted no time doing exactly that, Clarke Bradford and Jamie White combining to put their side 4-0 ahead before half-time.

Faced with such an overwhelming first half barrage the young Cougars could have been expected to wilt and suffer another humiliating defeat similar to the 14-1 thrashing that Sunshine Coast handed out to them in April. The Cougars have

Queensland Results
Brisbane Strikers 2 (Di Sipio, Thurtell) v FNQ Bulls 0
Whitsunday Miners 5 (Bradford 14,31,70, White 28, OG 38) v Capricorn Cougars 0
Sunshine Coast Fire 1 (Henslee 29) v Qld Academy Sport 1 (Borello 87)
Gold Coast Stars 4 (Hilton 14,70, Costello 24, McCormick 55) v Bundaberg Spirit 1 (Youngberry 49)
Youth Results Brisbane Strikers 2 v SWQ 1, Logan Strikers 2 v Gympie Fire 1, Sunshine Coast Fire 2 v QAS 1, Gold Coast Stars 0 v Bundaberg Spirit 1, Gold Coast Zone 1 v Sunshine Coast Zone 5

Next Round
Bundaberg Spirit v Whitsunday Miners Sat 18-June 7:00pm
Capricorn Cougars v Brisbane Strikers Sat 18-June 7:00pm
NQ Razorbacks v Gold Coast Stars Sat 18-June 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v QAS Sat 18-June 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v BYE

Standings								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	10	7	3	0	33	6	27	24
2 Brisbane Strikers FC	09	6	0	3	25	10	15	18
3 Gold Coast Stars	09	4	3	2	14	12	2	15
4 QLD AoS	10	3	5	2	16	15	1	14
5 NQ Razorbacks	10	3	3	4	22	16	6	12
6 Whitsunday Miners	09	3	3	3	14	12	2	12
7 FNQ Bulls	09	3	3	3	16	14	2	12
8 Bundaberg Spirit	09	1	1	7	8	33	-25	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	09	0	3	6	8	38	-30	3

made great strides since that match though and the visitors found a measure of stability in defence, holding Whitsunday to only a single goal, Clarke Bradford capping an excellent performance with a hat-trick.

Olympia off the bottom in Tassie



Olympia Warriors finally got off the foot of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League with a 3-1 home win over second-last Beachside at Warriors Park on Saturday night.

And, Olympia’s signing from South Melbourne, central defender Jake Van der Mey, helped put them ahead with a fine run into the opposing half and accurate cross for Corbett to head home and put Olympia in front.

Ven der Mey flies in each weekend from Melbourne. It was his second appearance for Olympia. They lost 2-0 to Glenorchy Knights last weekend when he made his debut.

After a goalless opening half, a controversial goal by Ricki Eaves, from Tom Gordon’s cross, put Beachside ahead in the 55th minute. His shot came down off the woodwork and, despite Olympia’s protests that the ball had not crossed the line, the goal was allowed to stand.

Chris Kumpulainen equalised in the 62nd minute before Corbett put the home side ahead in the 83rd minute, while a goal in stoppage time by Alex Nandan made it 3-1 for Olympia.

The loss means that Beachside are now last, 2 points adrift of second-last Olympia.

New Town Eagles have slipped from second to third on the standings after being thumped 5-2 by fourth-placed Tilford Zebras at KGV Park on Saturday night.

Clarence United regained second spot despite drawing with sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights 1-1 at KGV Park on Friday night in a game which created a little bit of history. It was the first game to be streamed live via the internet in Tasmania.

Jonathon Ladic put the Zebras ahead against Eagles after just 5 minutes, but Adam McKeown made it 1-1 in the 16th minute.

Alex Gordon put Eagles in front in the 21st minute, but a goal by Ricky Self 4 minutes later made it 2-2 at the interval.

Zebras cantered away with it by scoring three times in the second half. The marksmen were Jayden Welch in the 66th minute, Luke Cripps in the 70th minute, and Sam McIntyre in the 85th minute.

Could this be the end of the road for what some people say were an over-achieving Eagles side? They have now lost three times in a row - once in the cup and twice in the league.

Joseph Stevens put Clarence ahead against Glenorchy Knights in the 18th minute, but Andrew Robb salvaged a point for the home side 4 minutes before the break.

There was plenty of drama in the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League match at Montello, where home-side Burnie United went down 1-0 to the visiting Northern Rangers, who are the reigning champions.



Zebras’ Jayden Welch is congratulated by team-mates after scoring against Eagles. Photo: RAELENE HENNICKE

Derek Schipper scored the only goal in a match that saw three red cards - one to Burnie and two to Rangers.

Launceston United were probably not in the mood when they hosted Devonport City at Birch Avenue on Saturday.

United’s French player, Alex Rubel, was killed in a car accident last Saturday while travelling back to Launceston from the team’s game against Burnie United at Montello and a memorial service had been held for him on the eve of this match.

It was no surprised then when last-placed United succumbed 7-0 to

Devonport, who moved to the top of the ladder as a result. McKenna netted twice, while the other goals came from Douce, Mulraney and McDonald.

Ulverstone suffered a 3-2 home loss to Somerset at the Ulverstone Showground, while Launceston City and Riverside Olympic drew 1-1 at Mitsubishi Park.

Metro became the new leaders in the Southern League One competition after downing bottom-side Southern FC 2-0 away at Sherburd Park, Aaron Marney grabbing both goals.

“The boys fought very hard today in a 2-0 loss,” said Southern FC

Next Round
Southern Premier League Friday 10th June 2011 Glenorchy Knights v Kingborough Lions KGV Park 08:00 PM
Saturday 11th June 2011 Clarence United v New Town Eagles Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM Tilford Zebras v Beachside FC KGV Park 02:30 PM South Hobart FC v Olympia FC South Hobart 02:30 PM
Monday 13th June 2011 Olympia FC v Clarence United Warriors Park 07:00 PM New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights Clare Street 02:30 PM Kingborough Lions v Tilford Zebras Lightwood Park 02:30 PM Beachside FC v South Hobart FC Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM
Northern Premier League Saturday 11th June 2011 Launceston City v Devonport City Mitsubishi Park 02:30 PM Ulverstone v Launceston United Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM Somerset v Prospect Knights Cardigan Street 02:30 PM Northern Rangers v Riverside Olympic NTCA 02:30 PM Burnie United Bye

Tasmania Results
Southern Premier League Glenorchy Knights1 Clarence United 1 Tilford Zebras 5 New Town Eagles 2 Olympia FC 3 Beachside FC 1 South Hobart FC 3 Kingborough Lions 2
Northern Premier League Burnie United 0 Northern Rangers 1 Ulverstone 2 Somerset 3 Launceston United 0 Devonport City 7 Launceston City 1 Riverside Olympic 1

Northern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	9	7	0	2	28	16	21
Prospect Knights	8	6	1	1	20	7	19
Northern Rangers	9	5	1	3	20	9	19
Ulverstone	9	5	1	3	23	14	16
Launceston City	9	3	3	3	13	16	12
Riverside Olympic	9	2	2	4	15	16	11
Burnie United	9	3	0	6	15	17	9
Somerset	9	3	0	6	14	21	9
Launceston United	9	0	0	9	13	45	0

Southern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	11	9	2	0	40	13	29
Clarence United	12	6	4	2	22	23	22
New Town Eagles	12	6	3	3	26	21	21
Tilford Zebras	11	5	5	2	27	18	19
Kingborough Lions	11	5	0	6	22	26	15
Glenorchy Knights	12	2	4	6	18	28	10
Olympia FC	12	2	1	9	20	32	7
Beachside FC	11	1	2	8	12	26	5

also had strong games, but Metro were too good for us in the end.

“We can take a few positives out of the game and are definitely improving. With continued work on the track, our first points for the season should be coming soon.”

Hobart United moved into second place after beating Nelson Eastern Suburbs 3-1 away at North Warrane, while Taroona easily accounted for DOSA 5-0 at home at Kelvedon Park through two goals by Toby Dove and one each to Ruaidhri Carey, Marcus Atkinson and Llewyn Tubbs.



Adelaide Blue Eagles were 1-0 winners against Campbelltown in Round 9 of the Super League at Marden Sports Complex on Saturday.

The only goal of the match arrived ten minutes after half time, as Kym Harris gave Blue Eagles three crucial points in the eastern derby.

There was more than just bragging rights on the line, with both teams locked in the battle for a top five finish and were separated by just a win heading into the contest.

ABE were undefeated since Round 3, winning three and drawing two in their past five matches, whilst their opponents have struggled for consistency in the same period, triumphing twice, drawing once and losing on two occasions.

In front of Australian national team players Lucas Neill, who tossed the coin at the beginning of the match, Robbie Kruse and Adam Federici, Blue Eagles dominated proceedings but were unable to add to their solitary strike.

The Red Devils were without several key players and struggled for rhythm throughout. The first half saw the hosts make the better chances but not convert. They were firstly denied by the woodwork. Then Fortunato Filletti was kept out by a Leslie Pogliacomi stop. The next best chance fell to Evan Kounavelis, but he too was not able to get past the veteran goalkeeper as Campbelltown failed to make an impact on proceedings.

No score at the break was quickly changed with Harris’ strike after 55 minutes. Receiving the ball inside the box, the young striker was able to get it on his left foot and this time Blue Eagles found a way past Pogliacomi.

Blue Eagles see off Campbelltown in derby



Adelaide Galaxy keeper Nick Munro is unable to prevent one of the four goals put past him by MetroStars. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

ABE were presented with the opportunity to extend the lead, but Dean Kendrick saw his penalty saved by Pogliacomi, who was doing his best to keep Campbelltown in the hunt. Yet another chance went begging when the home side struck the woodwork for the second time in the match.

Blue Eagles coach Vojo Gluscevic was pleased with the win, although he lamented the amount of opportunities his side failed to convert.

“I am happy with the win and performance as we dominated the game,” he said.

“However we made a lot of chances that we should have scored. It was great to see a lot of people at the match and great to beat our rivals but there should have been more goals.”

Gluscevic was bullish about his team’s important fixture next weekend.

“We play Adelaide City next week,

it is a big game and anything can happen. We are in good form and are going there to win.

Best on ground for the Blue Eagles was match-winner Harris, as well as Filletti and Christopher Atsikbasis. For Campbelltown Michael Paleka featured alongside goalkeeper Pogliacomi, who pulled off a string of fine saves and captain Michael D’Aloisio, as the main performers.

Adelaide City kept their buffer at the top of the table with a 3-1 against Croydon at Polonia Park on Saturday. Scoreless at the break, a second half blitz saw goals from Jace Cummins, Eli Vlassis and Anthony Costa give City the points. Andrew Harous replied for the Kings.

Harous was also Croydon’s best, along with Dion Gazettas and Ben McLoughlin. For City, Jonathon Negus, Nicky Budin and Matthew Mullen were the standouts.

Keeping in touch with Adelaide City

are MetroStars, who thumped Adelaide Galaxy 4-0 at Con Makris Park on Saturday. Ominous strike-duo Michael Matricciani and Francesco Monterosso both netted a brace for the visitors.

The goal scorers were in the top three players, along with Dave Menechella. Putting in a strong performance for Galaxy were Scott Weidenbach, Kodi Madeley and Tom Dittmar.

Western Strikers moved above Campbelltown into fifth position on the ladder with a 1-0 victory over Modbury at Carnegie Reserve on Saturday. Modbury was left to rue a number of missed chances as Adrian D’Alfonso scored the only goal of the match in the second half.

Michele Lastella was best on ground for the victors and he was joined by Michael Russo and Joseph Ciarla. For Modbury, the top three were Adrian Giacomelli, Dave Crowl and

Next Round
Modbury vs Croydon Jet Park 7:30 PM Fri 10/Jun
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Blue Eagles Adelaide City Park 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Campbelltown vs Raiders Steve Woodcock Sports Cre 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Metro Stars vs Western Strikers TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Para Hills vs Adelaide Galaxy The Paddocks 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun

Todd McSorley.

In the relegation battle, Para Hills grabbed three important points to keep Raiders in last place after a 1-0 win at the Croatian Sports Center on Saturday. The winner arrived in the second half and was scored by Simon Catanzaro.

Catanzaro was joined in the top three by Rhys Townsend and Ben Moore while for Raiders Daniel Scordo, Ante Jerkic and Dylan Willcocks collected votes for their performance.

FFSA Results
Western Strikers 1 (Adrian D’Alfonso) v Modbury 0 (HT 0-0) Best – Western Strikers: Michele Lastella, Michael Russo, Joseph Ciarla - Modbury: Adrian Giacomelli, Dave Crowl, Todd McSorley Reserves – Western Strikers 1 v Modbury 1 U19 – Western Strikers 1 v Modbury 6
Raiders 0 v Para Hills 1 (Simon Catanzaro) (HT 0-0) Best – Raiders: Daniel Scordo, Ante Jerkic, Dylan Willcocks Para Hills: Rhys Townsend, Simon Catanzaro, Ben Moore Reserves – Raiders 0 v Para Hills 0 U19 – Raiders 0 v Para Hills 2

Adelaide Galaxy 0 v MetroStars 4 (Michael Matricciani 2, Francesco Monterosso 2) (HT 0-1) Best – Adelaide Galaxy: Scott Weidenbach, Kodi Madeley, Tom Dittmar - MetroStars: Michael Matricciani, Dave Menechella, Francesco Monterosso Reserves – Adelaide Galaxy 2 v MetroStars 0 U19 – Adelaide Galaxy 1 v MetroStars 0

Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (Kym Harris) v Campbelltown City 0 (HT 0-0) Best – Adelaide Blue Eagles: Kym Harris, Fortunato Filletti, Christopher Atsikbasis - Campbelltown City: Michael Paleka, Leslie Pogliacomi, Michael D’Aloisio Reserves – Adelaide Blue Eagles 6 v Campbelltown City 0 U19 – Adelaide Blue Eagles 3 v Campbelltown City 1
Croydon 1 (Andrew Harous) v Adelaide City 3 (Jace Cummins, Eli Vlassis, Anthony Costa) (HT 0-0) Best – Croydon: Andrew Harous, Dion Gazettas, Ben McLoughlin Adelaide City: Jonathon Negus, Nicky Budin, Matthew Mullen Reserves – Croydon 1 v Adelaide City 1 U19 – Croydon 1 v Adelaide City 1

Standings								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	Pts
1 Adelaide City	9	8	1	0	26	6	20	0 25
2 Metro Stars	9	6	1	2	24	6	18	0 19
3 Adelaide BE	9	5	2	2	11	8	3	0 17
4 Adelaide Galaxy	9	4	3	2	14	11	3	1 15
5 Western Strikers	9	4	1	4	11	9	2	0 13
6 Campbelltown	9	3	2	4	7	9	-2	0 11
7 Croydon	9	3	2	4	8	12	-4	0 11
8 Para Hills	9	2	1	6	6	14	-8	0 7
9 Modbury	9	1	2	6	6	29	-23	0 5
10 Raiders	9	1	1	7	9	18	-9	0 4



Jacob Kagi

Cockburn City’s hopes of avoiding relegation from the WA Premier League received a much-needed boost with a 3-2 win against Stirling Lions.

City had been seven points clear at the bottom of the ladder after a streak which had seen them fail to pick up a point since round two, but they ended their 11-game losing streak with a greatly improved performance and are just four points away from safety.

And victory was made even sweeter for new Cockburn coach Michael Lyons, who was sacked by Stirling last season but orchestrated a result which was a major blow to his old side’s finals hopes.

Cockburn took an early lead through young striker Million Butshiire but Stirling scored just eight minutes later.

City again went ahead through a 53rd minute own goal before Jamie Watt levelled once again for the Lions 10 minutes later.

But Butshiire netted the win-

Cockburn boost survival hopes

ner with 15 minutes left to revive Cockburn’s season and leave Stirling struggling in eighth spot, just three points clear of the relegation zone.

Cockburn’s win increased the pressure on Mandurah City, who lost 3-1 to Inglewood United.

United climbed up to third spot after an Adrian Caceres brace led them to victory, while Mandurah is above the relegation only on goal difference and is just four points ahead of Cockburn.

Mandurah got back in the game with a 73rd-minute goal, after Caceres had earlier put Inglewood 2-0 up, but James Sammut secured all three points for the hosts with his 83rd-minute strike.

Floreat Athena continued its remarkable resurgence and left Armadale struggling in the relegation zone with a 4-0 victory.

Liam Boland scored two goals within 32 minutes and Paul Van Dongen also scored a brace to hand Athena an easy win and see them move up to fifth spot.

The result also ended Armadale’s improved form, as they’d taken four points from their previous two games, but



Cockburn returned to winning ways against Stirling. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

they’re still behind Mandurah on goal difference.

Balcatta maintained its place at the top of the ladder with a comfortable 3-0 win over ECU Joondalup.

The Cats are two points clear of second-placed Perth after striker Steven Burton scored goals in the 68th and 90th minutes after captain Ashley Rosindale put his side in front early in the second half.

Balcatta struggled to break down a resilient Joondalup side, but were rewarded for their pressure after half-time.

ECU was left three points outside the finals after its two-game winning streak was ended.

But Perth SC maintained the pressure on Balcatta with a comfortable 2-0 win against Bayswater City.

Robert Sciascia gave Perth the

lead after 23 minutes before midfielder Vlad Naumovski wrapped up the three points for his side 12 minutes later.

Perth has now won four-straight games since its embarrassing 4-1 home loss to Balcatta in early May, while Bayswater’s struggles continued. City has now gone without a win since beating Sorrento in mid April.

All Flags WA Results

First Team
Inglewood Utd 3 (Caceres 14, 63, Sammut 83) Mandurah City 1 (Straker 73); Armadale 0 Floreat Athena 4 (Boland 9, 32, P Van Dongen 21, 68); Perth SC 2 (Sciascia 23, Naumovski 35) Bayswater City 0; Cockburn City 3 (Butshiire 2, 75, OG 53) Stirling Lions 2 (O’Callaghan 10, Watt 63); Balcatta 3 (Rosindale 48, Burton 68, 90) ECU Joondalup 0; Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 70) NTC 4 (Oyet 40, Musa 58, O’Neill 68, 87).

Reserves
Inglewood Utd 8 Mandurah City 0; Armadale 1 Floreat Athena 2; Perth SC 3 Bayswater City 3; Cockburn City 4 Stirling Lions 0; Balcatta 1 ECU Joondalup 2; Western Knights 0 NTC 3.

Under 18’s
Inglewood Utd 5 Mandurah City 1; Armadale 2 Floreat Athena 3; Perth SC 4 Bayswater City 2; Cockburn City 2 Stirling Lions 0; Balcatta 2 ECU Joondalup 6; Western Knights 4 NTC 3.

Next Round

ECU Joondalup v Armadale SC
Joondalup Football Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Bayswater City v Cockburn City
Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Mandurah City v Balcatta SC
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Stirling Lions v Perth SC
Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Sorrento FC v NTC
Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun
Floreat Athena FC v Western Knights
E&D Liits Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun
BYE v Inglewood United

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	13	11	0	2	35	12	23	33
2 Perth SC	13	10	1	2	30	13	17	31
3 Inglewood United	13	7	1	5	35	24	11	22
4 Western Knights	12	6	3	3	19	18	1	21
5 Floreat Athena	13	6	2	5	25	21	4	20
6 Sorrento	12	6	2	4	19	17	2	20
7 ECU Joondalup	13	5	2	6	14	24	-10	17
8 Stirling Lions	13	4	2	7	20	23	-3	14
9 Bayswater City	13	3	4	6	20	26	-6	13
10 Mandurah City	13	3	2	8	12	19	-7	11
11 Armadale	13	3	2	8	18	26	-8	11
12 Cockburn City	13	2	1	10	17	38	-21	7

ACT Results

Canberra City 16 (Marc O’Neill 6’, Pat Ross-Magee 23’, 52’, 54’, Misko Naumoski 35’, 80’, Adam Dobell 37’, 48’, 60’, 79’, Nikola Taneski 45’, 56’, 70’, 74’, Jonathan Bills 69’, Mitch Stevens 76’) Goulburn Strikers

Cooma Tigers 0 Monaro Panthers 2 (Mark Shields (2))

Canberra Olympic 2 (Hristjan Tanoski 68’, Jakob Williams 78’) Tuggeranong United 2 (Steve Oxford 63’, Tim Ireson 89’ (pen))

Belconnen United 4 (Dustin Wells (3, 2 pens), Tom Rogic) Woden Valley 3 (Paul Gagetti, Alex Oloriegbe (2))

Next Round

TUFC v Cooma SC
Kambah 3:00 PM Sat 11/Jun

Goulburn Strikers v Belconnen United
Cookbundoon 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun r

Monaro v Canberra FC
Seiffert Oval 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun

Woden Valley v Canberra Olympic
Woden Park 3:00 PM Sun 12/Jun

BYE v Canberra City PL

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	5	5	0	0	37	7	+30	15
2 Canberra City	6	4	1	1	26	6	+20	13
3 Belconnen United	6	4	0	2	24	13	+11	12
4 Woden Valley	5	3	1	1	22	6	+16	10
5 Canberra Olympic	5	3	1	1	13	10	+3	10
6 Monaro Panthers	6	2	0	4	20	14	+6	6
7 Tuggeranong United	5	1	3	1	10	14	-4	4
8 Cooma Tigers	5	0	0	5	5	21	-16	0
9 Goulburn Strikers	5	0	0	5	1	66	-65	0

match restarted taking full advantage of their luck by equalising via Tom Rogic. The momentum by now was with the home team and when Wells completed his hat-trick, with his thirteenth goal of the season, the Blue Devils had completed a momentous comeback to claim the win and leave Woden Valley wondering quite how they had not managed to get something from a match in which they played some excellent football.

Last Minute Penalty Earns Tuggeranong Draw



Russ Gibbs

A penalty converted in the 89th minute by captain Tim Ireson earned Tuggeranong United a point in a highly entertaining 2-2 draw against Canberra Olympic at O’Connor Enclosed on a freezing cold day in Canberra. And it was a thoroughly deserved share of the spoils for the visitors who had earlier taken the lead and then were forced to come from

2-1 down to gain a late leveller. In a match that produced plenty of chances at both ends it was the goalkeepers that stood out early on with Alex Connell for Tuggeranong denying Jakob Williams from point blank rage with a superb save. Later substitute stopper Angelo Konstantinou, on for the injured James Bradbury, flung himself to make a terrific stop from Tim Stewart as United pressed for a goal.

It was Tuggeranong who took the lead in the 63rd minute when Andrew Lawrence broke forward and squared for Steve Oxford to thrash a firm shot into the empty net with Konstantinou and the Olympic defence floundering. It was nothing more than Tuggeranong deserved having pressed forward from the start of the second half. Olympic equalised when Hristjan Tanoski volleyed home from close range after a corner was flicked on at the near post and ten minutes later Jakob Williams drilled a low shot in off the base of the post to turn the match on its head.

Chasing a goal to draw level United pushed forward and Lawrence was upended in the area by Kon-



Woden Valley Gagetti (no 3) and Paul Macor (Belconnen) challenge for the ball. Inset: Woden Valley celebrate with second from left (no 3) Paul Gagetti having opened the scoring. Photo: NICK GUOTH

stantinou leaving skipper Ireson to calmly and confidently finish from the spot to end an absorbing clash.

At Hawker Football Centre Canberra City went on a goal rampage to smash sixteen without reply past the Rock Premier League bottom club Goulburn Strikers. Adam Dobell and Nikola Taneski did the most damage with four goals apiece while Pat Ross-Magee helped himself to a hat-trick. Misko Naumoski scored a brace and further goals were added by Marc O’Neill, Jonathan Bills and

Mitch Stevens as City ran riot. The home team led 5-0 at the break and added eleven more after the interval when the Strikers tired.

A double to Mark Shields was enough for Monaro Panthers to claim all three points with a 2-0 win over Cooma Tigers at Nijong Oval. Shields struck once in each half to take his goal tally for the season to twelve and leave the Tigers still chasing a first point of the season after five matches. Shields was released through the middle for his

first goal, burying the ball at the second attempt after his initial shot was saved, and added a second after the half-time break creating space in the area to finish confidently.

In the late kick off Belconnen United showed tremendous character to come from 3-0 down to win 4-3 against Woden Valley. Woden had showed that they certainly are a team to be reckoned with this season racing into a 2-0 lead at the interval. Paul Gagetti struck his fifth of the season to have his

team in front before a penalty from Alex Oloriegbe put the visitors 2-0 ahead. Pat McCann’s team was in dreamland when Oloriegbe added the third goal early in the second half before things began to unravel for the away team.

A brace of penalties to Dustin Wells had Belconnen well and truly back in the contest before the lights failed at McKellar Stadium causing a ten minute delay. And it was the Blue Devils that seemed the less ruffled of the two teams when the

JULY

SOCCER CAMP



MILAN

Soccer School

www.acmilansoccerschool.com.au



Where

Club Italia Sporting Club

128 - 152 Furlong Road, Sunshine


When

7 - 9 July

9am - 12 noon

3 AC MILAN COACHES

UEFA 'PRO' & A



Players 6 - 17 yrs

Register Online

Do you want to be Spotted?



Conducted By Ex AC Milan Player Andrea Icardi

WAG OF THE WEEK



Melina Pitra Age: 23

Scored with Fabian Assman (Independiente)

Aussies Abroad - May

Compiled by Damian Davies

The month of May represents the end of the season in most of the big leagues across Europe, so plenty of celebrations, hard luck stories and well deserved rest!! Leagues in Asia continue for the season, with many Aussies appearing each week. The national teams are constantly at training camps and playing friendlies these days as we build up to the youth World Cup, women's World Cup and get ready for WC2014 qualifiers.

Club Level:- A frantic last month in the EPL sorry minimal Aussie representation unfortunately. **Brett Emerton** was undoubtedly the star of the month starting his clubs last four fixtures, scoring in the final two games. **Mark Schwarzer** continued in goal for Fulham as their Premiership status was again maintained. **Tim Cahill** completed an injury plagued session with a return of 9 goals, which compares favourably to his normal output. Our Aussies were much more prominent at Championship level. **Adam Federici** returned to Reading's starting line-up after injury but his team was defeated by Cardiff in the promotion playoff game. Despite winning their last two games, a mid year slump ultimately cost Leeds from securing a playoff position. **Neil Kilkenny** was back in the starting line-up for the last game in which may be his last Leeds appearance. Middlesbrough finished mid table, helped along considerably by the return of **Rhys Williams** to the team, along with the goals of **Scott McDonald**. He ended the campaign with 12 goals, perhaps not as productive as the Celtic days but certainly a respectable effort. By season end, **Brad Jones** had moved to the pine at Derby where he was on loan. **Shane Lowry** ended his loan spell at Sheffield United with a red card and relegation, hopefully his next game is a happier occasion wherever that may be played. Conversely in the League One promotion playoffs, James Weso-

lowski started several times, including the final, and was rewarded with promotion. League Two was a mixed bag with **Alex Cisak** (Accrington Stanley) and **Shane Cansdell-Sherriff** (Shrewsbury) playing pivot roles getting into the playoffs only to be knocked out without making the final. **Jamie Young** (Aldershot) and **Daniel Leach** (Barnet) both had final day starts and victories, Barnet avoiding relegation as a result. The big news for our Aussies in Scotland was the rise of **Ryan McGowan**. The 21 year old starting games against both Celtic and Rangers during May, a great experience. While 20 year old **Aaron Mooy** found himself starting at St.Mirren by the end of the season. A two year contract at that club justifies his move from the Bolton reserves. As mentioned in this review previously, the continued efforts of loanees **Matthew Park** and **Dylan McGowan** ensured a respectable finish for East Fife after being threatened with relegation before their arrival at the club. In continental Europe, **Mark Bresciano** was in and out of the Lazio squad during the season, making 7 of his 20 appearances in the starting line up. **Carl Valeri** started both of the final two games where wins guaranteed Serie B status for Sassuolo next season. **Max Vieri**'s Prato remain in the promotion playoff's in Italy's fourth tier. A few points of interest in Germany with **Dario Vidosic** playing considerable minutes at the relegated Arminia Bielefeld and Rukavytys completing an outstanding season for Hertha Berlin as they moved back to the top flight. Much to be encouraged about at Utrecht with **Zullo, Oar and Sarota** all in the final day match squad. **Dan Georgievski** started on the final day as Sibernik managed an away draw to remain in the top flight in Croatia. While in 2.HNL, the May goals scored by **Tomi Juric** went a long to ensuring Croatia Sesvete avoided relegation. Up to Scandinavia, where keepers **Nathan Coe** (Sonderjyske) and

Ante Covic (Elfsborg) remain as number one at their respective clubs. The same can be said for **Chris O'Connor** at Bohemians (Ireland), while **Dylan MacAllister** made his debut at Breidablik in Iceland. **Luke Wilkshire** has returned to the starting line up at Dinamo Moscow after missing a few games with injury. Across in Turkey, **Harry Kewell** returned to the starting line-up at Galatasaray in what is rumoured to be his last appearance for the club. **James Troisi** finished the season by starting the club's last three games in what has to be considered a successful comeback from a long term knee injury. Finally in Europe, we move to Greece where **Billy Konstantinidis** also ended the season in the starting line-up at Pierikos who maintained their status in the second tier. Most Asian leagues have now been in progress for a few months so the tables are starting to take shape. In Japan, many fixtures are being played as the league makes up time after the temporary suspension of games. From an Aussie perspective, **Bosnar** and **Spiranovic** have been mainstays in defence, **Alex Brosque** has seen a reasonable amount of game time and opened his scoring account. Reigning Golden Boot winner, **Josh Kennedy**, also scored his first goal of the new campaign. While in the second tier, **Mark Milligan** has strung together half a dozen starts after returning from injury. He now finds his club, JEF United, one game clear at the top of the table. While other centre-backs in the Korean league are generally progressing well with **Devere, Ognenovski and Cornthwaite** seeing good minutes. Many of our HAL players are making the most of their loan deals in China with **Heffernan, Wilkinson, Kwasnik and Djite** all making an impact. **Joel Griffiths** is also progressing well with now four goals in his eight starts as Beijing Guoan lead the league. Former HAL players, **Jonas Salley and Dino**

Djubic continue to start for their respective teams in China. Former HAL players continue to make a splash in the rebel league in Indonesia with players like **Agius, Karlovic, Micevski and Barisic** constantly on the score sheets. While other Aussies, **Vrteski, Maguire, Gaspar, Susak and Subara** continue to start most games. **Andrew Barisic's** Persebaya lead the league with Gaspar's Persema behind only on goal difference nearing the end of the season. **Tolgey Ozbey** has continued his prolific scoring run in India, now scoring 15 goals in all competitions this campaign. In North America, **Joel Thiessen** transferred in the off-season and has slotted straight into the midfield at Portland Phoenix in the PDL. **Caleb Patterson-Sewell** has started the new season spending time on the bench at USL Pro team Carolina Railhawks. Despite an injury layoff, **Richard Porta** has made a timely return to the starting line up at Nacional. Three fixtures, three starts, one goal and now sitting top of the table, makes a productive month.

Promotions and relegations: Going up to the Bundesliga next season are Hertha Berlin (**Rukavytysa**), while in England, Peterborough (**Wesolowski**) move to the Championship and Chesterfield (**Downes**) are up to League One. Finally, Torgelower (**Georgeff**) also won promotion in the lower leagues of Germany. Conversely, many more Aussies caught in relegations. Starting in England, West Ham (**Tombides**) have dropped out of the EPL. Championship teams Sheffield United (**Warren, Thomas**) and Preston North End (**Wright**) both were relegated to League One. In Italy, Portogruaro (**Madaschi**) dropped out of Serie B, Trento Calcio (**Centofanti, Modaffari**) were relegated from Serie D, while in Poland, Arka Gdynia (**Rozic**) dropped out of the top level. Several clubs where our Aussies were on loan were also relegated.

Congratulations to Dortmund (**Langerak**), Basel (**Chipperfield**), Chesterfield (**Downes**), Hertha Berlin (**Rukavytysa**) and Torgelower (**Georgeff**) who all won league titles.

Club Competitions:- Europe (UEFA Champions League) No Aussies remain. Congratulations to winners Barcelona. **(UEFA Europa League)** No Aussies remain. Congratulations to winners Porto.

Asia (AFC Champions League) **Jon McKain** (Al Nasr) played 90 minutes in the group games and then the first knocked game where his team was eliminated. **Adam Griffiths** (Hangzhou Greentown) also started his last group game but was eliminated without progressing. **Josh Kennedy** (Nagoya Grampus) returned from injury to start in the first knockout final, but suffered a 2-0 defeat. All Aussies will be taking no further part as the competition enters the quarter finals. **(AFC Cup)** **Tolgey Ozbey** (East Bengal) started the final group game but his team also did not progress to the final stages.

South America (Copa Libertadores) No Aussies remain.

Youth:- Many of the youth leagues in England finished early in May so not a lot to report. Starting with the players eligible for the U20 World Cup, **Tomi Juric** (Croatia Sesvete), **Kearyn Baccus** (Le Mans II), **Jason Davidson** (Sporting Covilha) and **Dylan McGowan** (East Fife) were all regular starters in their respective senior teams. Of those eligible for the 2012 Olyroos, **Alex Cisak** (Accrington Stanley) continued his great form. **Andreas Govas** (on loan to Kozani) finished off

an impressive season, **Ryan McGowan** (Hearts) had a great run in the seniors and **Luke Devere** (Gyeongham) seems to have settled in well to Korea. The big news for the month has been the rise of **Dylan Tombides** at West Ham. Voted the Academy player of the season, consistently starting and scoring for the reserves, and then sitting on the bench in the seniors for the last game of the season. Certainly a bright future for the 17 year old.

Injuries:- For some, the end of season couldn't come quickly enough with many players heading to the medical rooms for treatment. As seen in the Socceros team announced for the June fixtures, big names like **Cahill, Kewell and Schwarzer** need post season surgery. Hope to see **Downes, Garcia, Grella and Neill** fit for the early in the new season. Great to see **Kisnorbo** get a run on the last day of his club's season.

National level :- Training camps and friendlies at several national levels during May, the Socceros are appearing in Australia in early June!! Seems to be a great opportunity for some of the fringe players to make a case for future selection with several key players unavailable.

Transfers :- Quiet time of year, but bound to pick as teams start assembling squads for the next European season.

Additions/changes to database: - **Lee Burns** (17 Jul 1982) – transferred to Dartford, England
Adrian Caceres (10 Jan 1982) – transferred to Real Mataram, Indonesia
Shane Huke (2 Oct 1985) – transferred to Dover Athletic, England
Steven Lustica (12 Apr 1991) – transferred to Hajduk Split, Croatia
Dylan MacAllister (17 May 1982) – transferred to Breidablik, Iceland

LONDON CALLING



The big news this week were two managerial casualties: Mark Hughes and Gerard Houllier. Houllier, through a combination of ill-health and poor results, mutually agreed to terminate his contract with Aston Villa.

Mark Hughes was a more interesting case in point. Hughes told Fulham he no longer wished to continue as coach at Craven Cottage. The news was greeted by most football fans with a combination of annoyance and indifference. Fulham, as the 7th or 8th biggest club in London are seen more as a stepping stone for the careers of players and managers. So, when the Aston Villa job became available, it was assumed that ‘Sparky’ Hughes resignation was an attempt to give himself a clear run at the job.

Hughes tried to distance himself from all this speculation when he said that no other club was in the frame and that he hoped “the supporters and all those connected with the club will understand I wish to move on to further my experiences.”

So there you have it. As clear as mud. He wants to leave to further his career but hasn’t got anything lined up. Some say he just hasn’t enjoyed being at Fulham, but if he didn’t then why not resign earlier? At best his reasons are disingenuous. Due to clauses in his Fulham contract, interested parties have to wait until 30th June to officially approach Hughes. What’s the betting that, on the 1st of July, Hughes is unveiled as manager of Aston Villa. This would be in spite of the Midlands clubs’ assertion that Hughes is not in the frame. This should be taken with a pinch of salt. If he was in the frame they wouldn’t be allowed to say so anyway, they would be breaking Premier League rules. As for Fulham, the jilted party, I have no doubt they will find an experienced and competent coach (therefore not Alex McLeish).

Tevez Should Be Deported
Once again Carlos Tevez has made noises about being homesick and wanting to be with his family, who are in Argentina. This from a guy who is happy collecting millions but is seemingly too distracted to learn English. He cannot give interviews in English, and one must conclude he just cant be bothered or is thick. In plumping for the latter I’m bearing in mind two things: One, he’s been in England five years, and even an Aussie would’ve learnt English by then! Two, his compatriot, Javier

Mascherano, gave an interview in English TV after the UCL final. OK, we really needed an interpreter to understand him, but he tried and for that I applaud him. People like Tevez, who are only too happy to take the money, but wont commit to the country by learning the language, should be deported. He’s been moaning all season about going back to Argentina, as if this country is some sort of small-island prison cell. Carlos should do himself, and everyone else, a favour by putting an end to this drama once and for all by leaving. He wont of course, because no matter how badly he wants to be with his family, he wants to keep collecting the City millions that no-one else will be stupid enough to pay him back in his homeland.



Boots made for walking: Carlos Tevez and Brenda Asnicar

One Man Staying, Another May Leave
The best news of the week came for Spurs fans, who should be delighted to hear that Wilson Palacios is on the radar of SSC Napoli. Napoli are in the UCL for the first time in their history and need reinforcements. I assume they’ve been sending folks along to Spurs training sessions because Wilson, through a combination of injury and bad form, hasn’t been playing much. Spurs fans will tell you that this guy had a great first season in the lily-white shirt but has been poor ever since. In one game this season he was sent off and gave away a penalty – not in that order



Hughes and Houllier Leave Through The Back Door

of course. Palacios is a very poor tackler, and an even worse passer. He is one of those players who probably look like Messi on the training ground and all-messed-up on the pitch. Spurs have no need for him, given the form of Sandro, and if the reported £10m fee is correct then it isn’t only Premier League clubs with more money than sense.

Michael Owing
The most bizarre news of the week is Michael Owen’s new one-year contract with Manchester United. Most people, myself included, greeted the news with dismay. After all, I remember Michael Owen as a swash-buckling centre forward with a keen predator’s eye for goal. Just lately, on the pitch at least, he’s looked more like an old man trying to nudge his way through a crowd of shoppers.

However, when one analyses the reasons SAF extended his contract, and the efficiency of Owen himself, we actually shouldn’t be all that surprised. Owen had nine goals in 11 games started, whilst playing 20 as a sub. These are not great stats and, though he got his Premier League winners medal (his first) by default, there are very good reasons to believe his

extended stay at Old Trafford isn’t the worst piece of business ever. For a start, it sorts out the Dimitar Berbatov saga once and for all. The Bulgarian is going. I can’t see him spending another year like the one he’s just had. “Michael has proved to be a top footballer,” stated United manager Sir Alex Ferguson. “It is unfortunate that he did not get more opportunities but the form of Hernandez put everyone in the shade and his partnership with Rooney proved invaluable. “I am delighted Michael is staying for a further year and we will look to give him more opportunities in the new season.” This is of course BS. The reason he’s staying is to pass on his knowledge and experience to Javier Hernandez. I see him as a player very much in the mould of Michael Owen, and maybe SAF does too, so what better player to learn from? Owen, when justifying his decision to re-sign at Manchester United, told his twitter followers he would rather be a bit-part player for a club like United, than playing full-time for a lesser side. “Prefer playing less often in a top team than every game in a poor team. Been there and didn’t enjoy it.” Ouch! Said team is of course Newcastle United. Newcastle paid £16



Michael Owen

million to bring Owen back to England from Madrid. His strike ratio was around a goal every two games, but he was often injured. Not one to leave bait untouched, former Newcastle co-owner Freddy Shepherd hit back in an interview with the Daily Express. “We might have been a poor team, but we made him a rich man. It works out at around £500,000 for every game in a Newcastle shirt. Poor? Well, he wasn’t poorer for it. He spent more time ferrying between Cheshire and Tyneside in his £3.5 million helicopter.”

That wins the Meow Moment of the Week award. Newcastle’s managing director, Derek Llambias, added: “Under Kevin Keegan’s management he was offered a one-year extension at £140,000 a week, which he did not take. He was already on £133,000. His time here cost £40-odd million, about £1.3 million per goal.” Sorry, but I’m in Owen’s court on this one. What did Pink Floyd say about exchanging a walk on part in the war for a lead role in a cage? Owen chose the war. Nice one Michael.

The latest Adidas Football Team Wear available to your team.

To receive the latest catalogue contact adidas on 1800 801 891



BARCELONA

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS 2010/11



UCL Final

Champions League Final
Barcelona 3-1 Manchester Utd (HT 1-1)
Saturday, 28th May 2011
Ref: V Kassai
Wembley Stadium, London
Att: 87,695

Barcelona:
Valdes, Daniel (Puyol 88), Pique, Abidal, Xavi,
Iniesta, Mascherano, Busquets, Villa (Keita
86), Messi, Pedrito (Afellay 90+2)
Goals: Pedrito 27, Messi 54, Villa 69
Yellow cards: Valdes, Daniel.

Substitutes: Olazabal, Puyol, Adriano Correia,
Keita, Afellay, Thiago, Bojan

Man Utd:
Van der Sar, Evra, Ferdinand, Vidic, Fabio Da
Silva (Nani 69), Giggs, Park Ji-Sung, Carrick
(Scholes 76), Valencia, Rooney, Hernandez
Goals: Rooney 34
Yellow cards: Carrick, Valencia

Substitutes: Kuszczak, Smalling, Anderson,
Nani, Scholes, Fletcher, Owen

PHOTO: BACK PAGE IMAGES

Visit
iTunes
for your
FREE
Download

Available on the iPhone
App Store

Elastoplast

Sport 
Supporting your Passion



Prevention is better than cure so protect yourself against injury with the Elastoplast Sport range of sports medicine products. Exclusively used by The Australian Institute of Sport and many other elite sports clubs across Australia and New Zealand.

- Rigid Strapping Tapes
- Elastic Adhesive Bandages
- Mouthguards
- Hot/Cold Packs

For all your Sports Medicine needs. Available from pharmacy, sports medicine wholesalers and supermarkets.

www.elastoplastsport.com



USA prepares for third World Cup title

By Ann Odong

USA

Coach: Pia Sundhage

Captain: Christie Rampone

Confederation: CONCACAF

Current FIFA Ranking: 1

Best World Cup Finish: Champions (1991 & 1999)



Overview

When it comes to women’s football, the United States of America has done it all. From world titles to Olympic Gold medals, the USA have scooped the pool many times over. They have produced some of the iconic and great names of the women’s game including Michelle Akers and Mia Hamm, the only two women named in the FIFA 100 by Pelé in 2004. While the USA have been dominant for a long time, with the changing face of the women’s game, never more than now is that dominance is being challenged. However, if any nation is well placed to weather that storm and it back, it’s the US.

How They Qualified

As they had in every other CONCACAF tournament, the USA entered the 2010 qualifying unbackable favourites as highest ranked country in the confederation. In Group B, the tournament went according to plan with the reigning champions easily accounting for group rivals. An opening 5 – 0 over Haiti was followed by a 9 – 0 demolition of Guatemala before the stars and stripes cemented top spot with a 4 – 0 victory over Costa Rica.

Set to meet Mexico in the semi-finals, the Americans, with an imposing 26 – 0 record, went into the clash white hot favourites. However all assumptions were thrown out the window 3 minutes in when the Mexicans went ahead. From then on the double world champions were chasing the game and despite a Carli Lloyd goal, they never caught up eventually losing 2 – 1. In the third place playoff the US easily accounted for Costa Rica 3 – 0 setting up a UEFA-CONCACAF play-off with Italy. As expected it was a two tight legs but the greater experience finally told with the USA prevailing 2 – 0 (agg) to maintain their perfect World Cup attendance record.

The Team

The best of the WPS will be on display in this US side. Pia Sundhage has her pick of players according to the style she is looking to play. From goalkeeper Hope Solo to veteran striker Abby Wambach, this American squad is choc full of talent. Defensively Sundhage has gone with tried and tested veterans in Solo, captain Christie Rampone and Heather Mitts. But in the midfield and upfront is where the next generation look to take over. Midfielder Megan Rapinoe will look to mark her mark alongside the experienced Shannon Boxx and Carli Lloyd as will forward Amy Rodriguez, who looks set to lead the line with scoring machine Abby Wambach.

Players to Watch: Abby Wambach (Forward), Shannon Boxx (Midfielder), Amy Rodriguez (Forward), Megan Rapinoe (Midfielder)

Best Footballing Moment

For all the countries profiled so far de-



The United States Women have never missed a World Cup final during the tournament's brief duration and has only lost two matches since 2007. No doubt the Americans will stake another serious claim to the throne.

ciphering their best moment has been easy. However the United States are a different animal. With two World Cups, three Olympic Gold Medals, six CONCACAF Gold Cups, seven Four Nations titles and eight Algarve Cups it’s difficult to know which is their greatest moment. Arguably it’s their 1999 World Cup victory as they overcame, Germany, Brazil and eventually China (although on penalties) on their way to the title. The victory also earned them the privilege of being the first women’s sports team to names as the Sports Illustrated Sportspeople of the Year in 1999.

World Cup Objective

To many countries a third place in the 2007 FIFA Women’s World Cup would be a moment to savour but to say the USA were disappointed with this result is an understatement. For the Americans nothing less than a third world title is the objective.

North Korea

Coach: Kim Kwang Min

Captain: TBC

Confederation: AFC

Current FIFA Ranking: 8

Best World Cup Finish: Quarter finals (2007)



Overview

In the very competitive AFC confederation, Korea DPR have a history of strong results at underage and senior level. Since their first appearance in 1989, the North Koreans have been consistent performers in the Asian Cup culminating in 3 Asian titles. While they have been yet to truly fire on the world stage, their 2007 World Cup quarter-finals appearance seems to have signal that they are ready to step onto the world stage. Ranked no 8, but have been as high as 5, Korea DPR are a team on the move and look to shake up traditional heavy-weights in Group C.

How They Qualified

As the highest ranked AFC team in

the 2010 Asian Cup, DPR Korea were odds on favourites to take out the tournament and qualify for the 2011 Women’s World Cup. Their early tournament form demonstrated why as they easily sent Thailand (3 – 0) and Myanmar (2 – 0) packing. The final group game saw them battle top spot against for Japan with the latter winning narrowly 2 – 1). The second place finish pitted DPR Korea against 8 time Asian Cup winners China. Another monumental struggle ensued and it took Kim Kyong-Hwa’s 109th minute goal for the Koreans to move past China. With World Cup qualification sewn up, the 3 time Asian Cup winners went after their fourth title against Australia. However it wasn’t to be as the newest AFC team took out edged them out in a penalty shoot-out.

The Team

DPR Korea have earned the reputation of being a tough team to break down. Although not the most flamboyant team in world women’s football, Kim Kwang Min’s charges are highly disciplined, technically proficient and well organised and drilled. Defensively Song Jong-Sun will continue to be an important link player for the Min with her speed and pin point passing as well as uncanny positioning. The key to this side is midfielder and the 2010 Asian Cup MVP Jo Yun-Mi. A box-to-box midfielder, Jo is the mastermind of many of Korea’s attacks with a deadly finish of her own. She combinations with forward Kim Kyong Hwa have seen DPR Korea rise steadily in the world rankings.

Players to Watch: Jo Yun-Mi (Midfielder), Kim Kyong Hwa (Forward), Song Jong-Sun (Defender)

Best Footballing Moment

In their previous two appearances at the World Cup (1999 & 2003), North Korea had failed to make much of an impact on the competition. That changed in the 2007 tournament. Although grouped with world cup veterans Sweden and the USA, the Koreans surprised all with a first up 2 – 2 draw with the United States.

They followed that up with a 2 – 0 win over Nigerian, and although they succumbed to Sweden 1-2, 4 points and a superior goal difference saw them deny Sweden a quarter

final berth. Up against Germany, it was too tough an ask as North Korea were overpowered 3 – 0 by the German machine.

World Cup Objective

Since their first World Cup quarter-final four years ago, DPR Korea has become of one of the top women’s football teams in the world. Kim Kwang Min as already stated that nothing less than another quarter-final appearance is acceptable but that will be easier said than done with the USA and Sweden in the group.

Colombia


Coach: Ricardo Roza

Captain: TBC

Confederation: CONMEBOL

Current FIFA Ranking: 31

Best World Cup Finish: Debutantes



Overview

Like in many South American countries, women’s football is just awakening in Colombia. This is largely due to the explosion of young footballers starting to infiltrate the ranks. Long-time minnows, Las Cafeteras is looking to follow Brazil and become a world football powerhouse. The transformation has already begun with the Colombians finishing an impressive fourth in the 2010 U-20 Women’s World Cup with some dazzling football. It’s how Brazil began, and who knows how far this generation can take the Colombians.

How They Qualified

Colombia weren’t favourites to make it through to the FIFA Women’s World Cup but throughout the CONMEBOL qualification, Ricardo Roza’s side proved that they are a team to watch in South American football. Colombia made their way out of the first stage courtesy of strong performances against Paraguay (3-0), Venezuela (5-0), Uruguay (8-0) and a surprisingly close loss to Brazil (1-2).

The second stage of qualification saw more of the same from Las Cafeteras as a 1-1 draw with Chile and 1-0 win over Argentina was enough to see the team through to their first ever FIFA Women’s World Cup. The Team

Along with Germany’s Alexandra Popp, the star of the U20s World Cup was Colombian striker Jorely Rincón. At just 17 years of age, Rincón has already become Colombia’s most potent weapon with her 5 goals in qualifying the main reason they found themselves on the plane to Germany. If Colombia cause trouble in this group, Rincón will be at the centre of it.

Players to Watch: Jorely (Yoreli) Rincón (Striker)

Best Footballing Moment

2010 was by far the best year of results for the Colombian Women’s National Team. Finishing runner’s up to Brazil in the South American Women’s Championships and qualifying for the Women’s World Cup are unquestionably the biggest achievements for the women’s game.

World Cup Objective

At their first World Cup, this will be a big step for the Colombians. Add to that a tough group with three top 10 ranked nations, good performances and maybe some points would be the end objective for the newcomers.

Sweden

Coach: Thomas Dennerby

Captain: Caroline Seger

Confederation: UEFA

Current FIFA Ranking: 5

Best World Cup Finish: Finalist (2003)



Overview

Like group counterparts the USA, Sweden have been at the top of women’s football for a long time and are one of 7 nations to have appeared in all 6 editions of the FIFA Women’s

World Cup. In Europe, the Swedes have been equally strong with one title and several runners up honours in the European Championships. Like many nations, Sweden are undergoing a period of regeneration with several of their greats retiring after a disappointing last world cup. With the aid of a very strong domestic league the Damallsvenskan, which has hosted the likes of Marta, Cristiane and Australians Kate Gill and Lisa De Vanna, the next generation of Swedish players are making their mark on the international scene.

How They Qualified

For world no. 5 Sweden, UEFA qualification was a question of “when” not “if”. Alongside the Czech Republic, Belgium, Wales and Azerbaijan in Group H, the Swedes had little trouble in comfortably knocking over their opponents. At the end of the 8 game series, Dennerby’s side finished with 7 wins, 22 points and 36 goals in the back of the net.

The strong group performances meant Sweden headed into the Direct Qualification Playoffs as the no. 1 seed earning them a clash with long time Scandinavian rivals Denmark. The two evenly matched sides played out two entertaining legs with the Swedes just edging out the Danes 4 – 3 on aggregate to see them continue their perfect world cup qualification.

The Team

One of the great strengths of the Swedish squad is their evenness across the park. The Swedes look to assemble a squad that will be tight defensively but free following and creative going forward. Despite that levelness, the star of this team is national and Western New York Flash (WPS) captain Caroline Seger. Seger is a genuine superstar of the women’s game and her big game composure and experience in the US and Europe could determine Sweden’s chances. At the back goalscoring defender Anna Paulson is equally integral and experienced while upfront recent UEFA Women’s Champions League winner Lotta Schelin and qualification goal machine Jessica Landström look to be the key targets

Players to Watch: Caroline Seger (Midfielder), Jessica Landström (Forward), Anna Paulson (Defender), Lotta Schelin (Forward)

Best Footballing Moment

Sweden didn’t get off to the best start in the 2003 FIFA Women’s World Cup. Up against hosts USA in the opening Group A match, they went down to the American 3 – 1 in Washington. However, Blågult recovered quickly to take care of group challengers North Korea and Nigeria to see them finish second behind the US.

A quarterfinal against Brazil awaited them and despite Marta scoring for the Brazilians, Sweden were able to overcome them thanks to Victoria Svensson and Malin Andersson. The semi-finals saw the Swedes meet up with the in-form Canadians and when Kara Lang put the Canada in front early in the second half, it appeared over for Sweden. But late goals from captain Malin Moström and Josefine Öqvist pushed them into their first world cup final against Germany. In a match befitting of a final, it was golden goal heartbreak for Blågult when Nia Künzer ended their campaign in the 98th minute.

World Cup Objective

Their group stage finish in the 2007 FIFA Women’s World Cup was by far Sweden’s worst performance in the tournament. With failure smarting, Sweden would expect nothing less than a quarter-final appearance but as the no. 5 team in the world, going further is not out of the realms of possibility.

MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS

FULL NAME: Ben Surey
BIRTHPLACE: Surrey, UK
BIRTH DATE: 18/12/82
HEIGHT: 5' 10" ish
WEIGHT: 75kg
MARRIED: Working on it
CAR: Mitsubishi Magna - New model
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Crystal Palace, Gravesend & Northfleet, Basingstoke, Maidenhead, Melbourne Tornado.
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Working on it
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Does the Knights armband count??
TEAM HONOURS: Same as above
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Paul Gascoigne
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Xavi
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Adrian Zahra
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Mark Schwarzer
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Chesterfield v. Basingstoke, FA Cup 1st round 2006
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: England v Germany 1990
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Too many to mention
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Gazza's tears
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Football's not a joke
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Potentially this one MRI scan on Tuesday!
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Ross Thompson
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Banyule
SUPERSTITIONS: Lacing right boot first!
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Beans on toast
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Team mates!
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Shooting, passing, pace, consistency...
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Spurs
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf and cricket
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Graeme Swann
FAVOURITE FOODS: Indian
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Al Pacino
HOBBIES: Gambling
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Melbourne
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: 355 Beaconsfield Parade
IDEAL DATE: Scotty Lucas
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Any British comedy- Office, extra, Fools and Horses, Phoenix Nights...
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Rocky soundtrack
FAVOURITE FILM: Godfather
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Rangers- 2011 SPL champions
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Heard a few from Andy O'Dell
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Mate Grgic
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Referees
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To get fit for next season then play until I'm 45.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Tiger Woods
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Heart
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Hume

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

BEN SUREY

Melbourne Knights FC

And so the rumours are confirmed for Scholes

By Matt Galea

And so the rumours are confirmed, Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes has retired from professional football.

Making his senior debut for Manchester United against Port Vale on the 21st of September 1994, Paul Scholes went on to play for Manchester United a total of 676 times in all competitions, a total which makes him the player with the fourth most appearances in a Manchester United shirt. A winner before he ever stepped onto the park as a senior footballer, Paul Scholes was a member of the legendary 1992 FA Youth Cup winning side that produced the backbone of Manchester United for the next 20 years. With Gary Neville having already retired earlier this season, Ryan Giggs will be the only player from that side still playing for Manchester United during the 2011/2012 season.

A supreme passer of the footballer, Paul Scholes was an English footballer miles ahead of his compatriots. In terms of vision, touch, ability with the ball at his feet and all round passing games, Paul Scholes was by far the most technically gifted footballer of his generation, in fact, he was years ahead of the trend He is the footballer that play-



After a career spanning 17 years with a haul of 10 EPL titles and 66 Engand caps, Paul Scholes says good bye to football.

ers like Xavi wanted to be, he is the footballer players like Zidane wish they could have played with. Seemingly, the only part of Scholesy's game that was remotely English seemed to be his robust, mistimed tackling!

On his retirement Paul Scholes said:

"I am not a man of many words but I can honestly say that playing football is all I have ever wanted to do and to have had such a long and successful career at Manchester United has been a real honour. This was not a decision that I have taken lightly but I feel now is the right time for me to stop playing.

To have been part of the team that helped the Club reach that 19th title is a great privilege.

I would like to thank the fans for their tremendous support throughout my career, I would also like to thank all the coaches and players that I have worked with over the years, but most of all I would like

to thank Sir Alex for being such a great manager, from the day I joined the club his door has always been open and I know this team will go on to win many more trophies under his leadership."

Paul Scholes will remain at Old Trafford in a coaching role, where he will hope to impart some of his imperious football brain to the next generation of stars rising through the youth ranks.

A footballer who will leave an indelible mark on the game, I can think of few better quotes, and there are an absolute plethora of them, that capture Paul Scholes as much the following from Roy Keane:

"An amazingly gifted player who remained an unaffected human being"

And that is just what he was. A player who commanded respect on the pitch, his passing game was untouchable, his technique was flawless, his touch was perfect, this is a player who will be talked about for generations. Yet, for all his brilliance, for all his amazing achievements, goals and records, he was the most perfect professional I have ever seen. Alongside Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville, his loyalty to Manchester United, his determination to get his hometown club to the forefront of the English game was never once in doubt. Not once

did his hunger ever cease, despite all he had achieved in the game. When it would have been so easy to become lost in his own grandeur, Scholes kept his feet grounded. An absolute lion on the pitch, he was a mere cub off it. He steered clear of the spotlight, avoided the press (no mean feat in the English game) and conducted himself in the most honourable fashion. Everything a professional footballer should be, both on and off the pitch.

I always feel it is a shame that the modern game demands that you spend next to no time reflecting on what has been, it seems wrong that football will move on after Paul Scholes. Yet, that is exactly what Scholes himself will want. He has seen out the most brilliant of careers with his hometown club in the most honest, professional manner possible, and he will look back on that with all the pride it deserves, but he will also, in typical fashion, be committed to aiding the Manchester United cause from behind the scenes. He is a player who never liked the attention anyway, but today, I hope he receives all the attention from the football world as he can get. There are few players in the game that deserve it more than him.

Euro Championship 2012 Qualifiers

Euro Groups

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Germany	6	6	0	0	19	2	17	18
2 Belgium	7	3	2	2	15	10	5	11
3 Turkey	6	3	1	2	9	7	2	10
4 Austria	6	2	1	3	10	10	0	7
5 Kazakhstan	6	1	0	5	2	15	-13	3
6 Azerbaijan	5	1	0	4	4	15	-11	3
Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Slovakia	6	4	1	1	6	4	2	13
2 Russia	6	4	1	1	9	4	5	13
3 Rep of Ire	6	4	1	1	11	6	5	13
4 Armenia	6	2	2	2	10	7	3	8
5 Macedonia	6	1	1	4	5	8	-3	4
6 Andorra	6	0	0	6	1	13	-12	0
Group C	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Italy	6	5	1	0	14	1	13	16
2 Slovenia	7	3	2	2	9	4	5	11
3 Serbia	6	2	2	2	8	9	-1	8
4 Estonia	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	7
5 Northern Ire	5	1	3	1	3	3	0	6
6 Faroe Islands	6	0	1	5	3	18	-15	1
Group D	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 France	6	4	1	1	9	2	7	13
2 Belarus	6	2	3	1	4	2	2	9
3 Albania	5	2	2	1	4	4	0	8
4 Romania	6	2	2	2	8	6	2	8
5 Bosnia-Herv	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
6 Luxembourg	6	0	1	5	1	11	-10	1
Group E	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Netherlands	6	6	0	0	21	5	16	18
2 Sweden	5	4	0	1	15	6	9	12
3 Hungary	6	3	0	3	15	13	2	9
4 Moldova	6	2	0	4	7	9	-2	6
5 Finland	5	2	0	3	11	6	5	6
6 San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	30	-30	0
Group F	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Greece	6	5	1	0	8	3	5	14
2 Croatia	6	4	1	1	10	3	7	13
3 Israel	7	4	1	2	10	7	3	13
4 Georgia	7	2	3	2	5	5	0	9
5 Latvia	6	1	1	4	5	9	-4	4
6 Malta	6	0	0	6	2	13	-11	0
Group G	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 England	5	3	2	0	11	3	8	11
2 Montenegro	5	3	2	0	4	1	3	11
3 Switzerland	5	1	2	2	7	7	0	5
4 Bulgaria	5	1	2	2	6	4	2	5
5 Wales	4	0	0	4	1	8	-7	0
Group H	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Portugal	5	3	1	1	11	7	4	10
2 Denmark	5	3	1	1	7	4	3	10
3 Norway	5	3	1	1	6	4	2	10
4 Cyprus	4	0	2	2	5	8	-3	2
5 Iceland	5	0	1	4	2	8	-6	1
Group I	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Spain	5	5	0	0	15	5	10	15
2 Czech Rep	5	3	0	2	6	3	3	9
3 Scotland	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1	4
4 Lithuania	5	1	1	3	3	8	-5	4
5 Liechtenstein	5	1	0	4	3	10	-7	3

England hit back to salvage draw

England were held to a draw after surviving a major scare against Switzerland as they were forced to come from two goals behind to earn a point in the Euro 2012 qualifier at Wembley.

Fabio Capello's out-of-sorts side looked to be heading for a damaging defeat and a heavy blow to their hopes of reaching Poland and Ukraine next summer as Switzerland deservedly took command.

Tranquillo Barnetta was the grateful beneficiary of uncertain England defending and poor goalkeeping from Joe Hart as he twice saw speculative free-kicks end in the back of the net in the first half.

Wembley was noisily registering its unrest with Capello and England, who were without the suspended Wayne Rooney, when Johan Djourou's foul on Jack Wilshere gave Frank Lampard the opportunity to pull a goal back from the spot before the interval and provide the foundations for a second-half recovery.

Capello mystifyingly left Ashley Young out despite a match-winning display in the Euro 2012 qualifier win in Wales in March and he only underlined the folly of the decision by emerging as substitute at half-time and striking a fine equaliser six minutes after coming on.

England should have capitalised on their growing momentum to win, but Darren Bent failed to reproduce the finishing touches that have brought him goals in three successive appearances. He was blocked by Diego Benaglio when he was played in by Wilshere then blazed over the top of an open goal late on after Young's shot was saved by Switzerland's keeper.

Defeat would have been harsh on the Swiss, predictably well-organised under the masterly direction of veteran coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, and in midfield man Xherdan Shaqiri they have one of Europe's rising stars.

England have now gone four games without a win at Wembley, their longest sequence without a victory in 30 years, and still have much work to do to reach Euro 2012 as they prepare for a testing trip to face Bulgaria in Sofia in September.

EURO WRAP

Germany took a stranglehold on Group A of Euro 2012 qualifying with a 2-1 win over Austria on Friday, as Belgium drew 1-1 with Turkey.

A brace from Bayern Munich forward Mario Gomez - the second of which was an 89th-minute winner - secured the points for Joachim Loew's side at the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna on Friday.

Hosts Austria had pulled level through an Arne Friedrich own-goal four minutes into the second half, but they were rendered helpless by Gomez's late header.

The win sends Germany seven points clear at the top of Group A, with a game in hand over second-placed Belgium.

Defeat puts a further dent in Austria's already slim hopes of qualifying, but Turkey will take heart from their draw in Brussels.

Home side Belgium took an early lead through Racing Genk striker Marvin Ogunjimi just four minutes in at the Stade Roi Baudouin, before Turkey levelled through Trabzonspor forward Burak Yilmaz.

Belgium should have taken all three points, but Standard Liege midfielder Axel Witsel missed a 75th-minute penalty.

The valuable away point sees third-placed Turkey remain just one point behind Belgium.

And with a game in hand over their immediate rivals, Guus Hiddink's side remain in with a chance of securing second place and a chance to qualify via the playoffs.

Elsewhere on Friday, France were held to a 1-1 draw away to Be-



Ashley Young came on as a second half substitute and saved England's blushes with Swiss timing.

larus.

Laurent Blanc's visitors trailed after Eric Abidal put through his own net and they needed an equaliser from Chelsea forward Florent Malouda to secure a point.

The draw keeps Group D leaders France four points clear of second-placed Belarus.

Also in Group D, Romania moved third with a 3-0 win at home to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Euro 2012 qualifying Group B remains wide open after Russia, the Republic of Ireland and Slovakia all won on Saturday.

Tottenham Hotspur strike Roman Pavlyuchenko hit a hat-trick as Russia came from behind to beat Armenia 3-1 in the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow.

A brace from Pavlyuchenko's Spurs team-mate Robbie Keane - the first of which was his 50th international goal - gave Ireland a 2-0 win away to Macedonia.

And Miroslav Karhan's 62nd-minute strike saw Slovakia sneak a 1-0 victory at home to minnows Andorra.

The results leave Russia, Ireland and Slovakia level on 13 points from six matches played, with all three teams still to play one an-

other once more.

Italy stayed five points ahead of Slovenia at the top of Group C after a 3-0 win over Estonia.

Strikers Giuseppe Rossi, Antonio Cassano and Giampaolo Pazzini were all on target in the victory for Cesare Prandelli's side at Stadio Alberto Braglia.

Slovenia kept pace with the leaders after beating the Faroe Islands 2-0 away from home, despite playing with 10 men for over an hour of the match following Marko Suler's 25th-minute red card.

Striker Johan Elmander struck a brace as Sweden managed a comprehensive 4-1 win over Moldova, but they remain six points back from Group E leaders the Netherlands.

In the other match in Group E, a goal from former Chelsea and Birmingham striker Mikael Forsell gave Finland a 1-0 win in their match away to San Marino.

Finland are fourth, six points back from Sweden, and will be hard pressed to sneak into second.

In other matches, Greece regained the lead from Croatia in Group F with a 3-1 win over Malta.

Israel joined second-placed Croatia on 13 points - one behind

Euro Results

Sunday, 5 June 2011
International Match
Bolivia 0-2 Paraguay

Saturday, 4 June 2011
European Championship Qualifying
England 2-2 Switzerland
Greece 3-1 Malta
Iceland 0-2 Denmark
Latvia 1-2 Israel
Macedonia 0-2 Rep of Ireland
Montenegro 1-1 Bulgaria
Portugal 1-0 Norway
Russia 3-1 Armenia
Slovakia 1-0 Andorra

International Match
Brazil 0-0 Netherlands
Peru 0-0 Czech Republic
USA 0-4 Spain

Friday, 3 June 2011
European Championship Qualifying
Austria 1-2 Germany
Belarus 1-1 France
Belgium 1-1 Turkey
Croatia 2-1 Georgia
Faroe Islands 0-2 Slovenia
Italy 3-0 Estonia
Kazakhstan 2-1 Azerbaijan
Liechtenstein 2-0 Lithuania
Moldova 1-4 Sweden
Romania 3-0 Bosnia-Hercegovina
San Marino 0-1 Finland

International Match
Luxembourg 0-1 Hungary
South Korea 2-1 Serbia
Thursday, 2 June 2011

International Match
Canada 2-2 Ecuador
Guatemala 0-2 Venezuela
Mexico 3-0 New Zealand

Wednesday, 1 June 2011
International Match
Japan 0-0 Peru
Nigeria 4-1 Argentina
Ukraine 2-0 Uzbekistan

Greece - after they beat Latvia 2-1 away from home.

Sergei Gridin's brace gave Kazakhstan their first win in Group A, 2-1 at home to Azerbaijan.

And finally, Liechtenstein secured a rare competitive victory - their first since October 2007 - beating Lithuania 2-0 in Group I.



WE'RE none the wiser regarding the new head coach of Melbourne Victory but one of the mooted candidates has given caretaker Mehmet Durakovic the thumbs up.

South Melbourne head coach Eddie Krncevic, widely touted as a candidate for the Victory role made vacant after Ernie Merrick's departure, has dismissed speculation linking him with the A-League giant and has thrown his support behind former Socceroo and South Melbourne star Durakovic.

"I can tell you that the talk about me and the Victory job has been just that – talk," said Krncevic. "And quite frankly I can see no reason why the club wouldn't give Mehmet the job," he added. Durakovic has gone through a rigorous formal interview process as have a number of local and overseas candidates but the board of the A-League's most successful on- and off-field franchise is yet to make an announcement.

The players are enjoying a break but will be called back in to start pre-season training on Monday 4 July.

The club website posted an update on the coaching position last Wednesday.

It said that the first round of interviews had been concluded and that the club was drawing up a shortlist of candidates for a second round of interviews.

"It's been a very interesting and challenging process and we've certainly been impressed with

the applicants," said Victory chairman Anthony Di Pietro. "We have now further shortlisted the candidates and will conduct second-round interviews shortly with a view to making an announcement regarding the new coaching structure in the coming weeks."

Under-21s finals series? IT'S TIME that Football Federation Victoria stopped paying lip-service to the VPL's Under-21 competition and started treating the young players involved with more respect.

I've long held the view that there should be a VPL Under-21 finals series that would elevate that level of competition to the status afforded by rival codes to their respective reserves leagues. Imagine what effect this would have on our current Under-21s league, a competition where teams are never under the threat of relegation and can only strive for a championship decided on which team ends the home-and-away season on top of the ladder. While traditionalists would argue that this is the fairest way of deciding the season's best team, like it or lump it this simply is not part of the Australian sporting psyche and this country has a strong finals tradition in all forms of football.

When the league title is all but decided with a few rounds to go that race becomes a non-event and far too often the final few rounds of the VPL Under-21

season sees many players going through the motions as their side stutters and splutters towards the finishing line.

But an Under-21 competition with the heat on for a finals berth and for a finishing position on the league ladder that could be used as a springboard into the Grand Final would energise the players, coaches and supporters from the opening round of the season.

The Under-21 finals series could be run concurrently with the senior men's finals series and given that you might have four different clubs involved at the one finals venue there is potential for an increase in attendances which can only be a plus for FFV and its sponsors.

The showpiece of the code at club level in this state is VPL Grand Final day. It's clear that the federation wants to develop the day and its staging of last year's Grand Final at AAMI Stadium was a bold and progressive decision.

Green Gully and Richmond did battle that day for the right to be declared the VPL's championship team. Their clash was preceded by the corresponding WPL Grand Final featuring two of the powerhouses of the women's game in Box Hill Inter and Heidelberg United.

And while this was happening young men who would have treasured the opportunity to ply their wares on such a stage were relegated to being onlookers. Those that could be bothered

Krncevic backs Durakovic

turning up, that is.

FFV has done much to develop the women's game and should be lauded for doing so. I consider the development of women's football to be one of the great success stories of Tony Dunkerley's reign as FFV president. But it would be a shame if the senior men of tomorrow are left behind while we develop other branches of our code.

From my perspective, an Under-21 finals series is a no-brainer but FFV's lack of action on this matter suggests that it takes a different view.

I'd love to hear that view articulated and the reasons for shunning the Under-21s fully explained.

Name the club, win a banana

IF YOU can name the Melbourne club that sacked its reserves coach recently and replaced him with a new club sponsor you'll win a banana. Don't laugh. Have you seen the price of bananas lately?

Seriously though it's demeaning for a coach to be treated in such a manner and, from the club's perspective, even more damning to know that it holds its reserves players in such low regard. Hmm. I might toss in \$20,000 to a club next season on the proviso that I'm hired as senior coach. Why not? The worst case scenario is that I get you relegated, in fact if you see relegation as your primary goal then I'm certain that I'm the man for the job.



Current Melbourne Victory caretaker coach Mehmet Durakovic. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



CGC Proudly Present
Melbourne Knights
Golf Day



SUNDAY JUNE 19TH, 2011

AIRPORT GOLF CLUB
(TULLAMARINE COUNTRY CLUB)

TEE OFF AT 10AM - AMBROSE COMPETITION

Admission: \$50 with lunch at the Melbourne Croatia Social club included

Call Ange Hrastov for bookings;
0418 666 305
Sponsorship packages available

Melbourne Football STARS

THE 2011 EUROPEAN TOUR
SCOTLAND, ENGLAND & SPAIN



Trials Commencing Soon

- Games versus SPL, EPL & La Liga Academy Teams
- Coaching Sessions from Academy Coaches
- Stadium Tours
- Watch SPL, EPL, La Liga & Champions League Games

For further details please contact:
admin@melbournefootballstars.com.au
or visit
www.melbournefootballstars.com.au



experience the dream...

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 09

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Altona City 1 (M Esposito) Geelong 2, Ballarat Red Devils 4 Banyule City 1, FC Clifton Hill 1 Brunswick City 5 (M Mustafa T Sumbul 2 A Doig V Kostadinovski), Moreland City 5 Westgate 1 (J De Bono), Werribee City 0 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, Williamstown 2 (M Ceh T Grozdanovski) Altona East Phoenix 1

Altona City 3 (D Den - Ouden L Dossis K Gjergja) Geelong 1, Ballarat Red Devils 0 Banyule City 0, FC Clifton Hill 1 Brunswick City 5, Moreland City 0 Westgate 0, Werribee City 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 1, Williamstown 2 (Z Dusenko C Webb) Altona East Phoenix 0

P

W

D

L

F

A

PT

Moreland City

9

7

0

2

33

14

21

Whittlesea Ranges FC

8

5

3

0

14

4

18

Werribee City

9

6

2

1

16

8

17

FC Clifton Hill

9

5

2

2

14

11

14

Ballarat Red Devils

9

4

2

3

16

14

14

Brunswick City

8

4

2

2

16

10

11

Altona East Phoenix

8

3

1

4

15

16

10

Westgate

8

4

0

4

15

16

9

Geelong

9

2

2

5

14

24

8

Williamstown

7

1

2

4

4

13

5

Altona City

8

0

1

7

6

17

1

Banyule City

8

0

1

7

7

23

1

Moreland City

8

6

0

2

31

12

11

Altona East Phoenix

8

5

1

2

15

12

11

Werribee City

8

4

2

2

13

11

11

Brunswick City

8

4

1

3

17

13

11

Banyule City

8

4

1

3

13

11

11

Ballarat Red Devils

9

3

3

3

12

12

11

Williamstown

6

3

2

1

8

4

5

FC Clifton Hill

8

3

2

3

13

18

11

Westgate

8

3

1

4

9

8

11

Whittlesea Ranges FC

8

2

3

3

16

16

11

Altona City

8

2

1

5

14

24

11

Geelong

9

0

1

8

5

25

11

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Cairnlea 6 (A Georgiou 2 A Alicevic 2 O Gurkan M Karakilik) Whittlesea Utd 4 (A Bakri O Ayache M Elkersh V Kalayci), Avondale Heights 0 Keilor Park 4 (B Malaga G Mussel S Mussel A El Dib), Geelong Rangers 2 (M Khaled J Blackburn) Sunbury Utd 1, La Trobe University 1 (N Vissaris) Melbourne University 0, Sydenham Park 2 Hume Utd 4 (K Pendlebury J Sehic 2 E Karasungur), Yarraville Glory 5 Maribymong Greens 1

</

Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves
Corio 6 Essendon Utd 0, FC Strathmore 4 Laverton Park 0, North City Lions 2 (H Ntakirutimana K Ayache) Western Eagles 1, Northern Falcons 0 South Yarra 3 (B Boyce 2 S Noade), Westvale 2 North Sunshine Eagles 2, Sporting Whittlesea FC 3 Surf Coast 0	Corio 2 Essendon Utd 2, FC Strathmore 3 Laverton Park 2, North City Lions 2 (SM Yokanna P Mantouzeas) Western Eagles 2, Northern Falcons 0 South Yarra 10 (I Dickson 2 P Heys 2 R Hindle M Walton 2 L Pinder D Innes M Ndjeka), Westvale 1 North Sunshine Eagles 2, Sporting Whittlesea FC 2 Surf Coast 2	

Seniors

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Epping City 3 (OM Guerra M Tavoralo A Ferrante) Hoppers Crossing 0, Melbourne City 0 Bell Park 1 (J Cortorillo), Melbourne Tornado 2 (D Tonc D Pervan) Northern Roosters 1, Moreland Utd 0 Elwood City 0, West Preston 1 (C Tsalkos) Lalor Utd 1, Upfield 5 Plenty Valley Lions 1

Epping City 3 Hoppers Crossing 1, Melbourne City 0 Bell Park 3, Melbourne Tornado 3 Northern Roosters 3, Moreland Utd 0 Elwood City 1, West Preston 2 Lalor Utd 7, Upfield 3 Plenty Valley Lions 1

P

W

D

L

F

A

PT

Moreland Utd

9

6

2

1

17

9

20

West Preston

9

6

2

1

17

10

20

Hoppers Crossing

9

6

0

3

21

14

18

Epping City

9

5

1

3

21

13

16

Upfield

9

5

0

4

20

12

15

Lalor Utd

9

4

1

4

15

18

13

Plenty Valley Lions

9

4

1

4

12

17

13

Melbourne Tornado

9

3

2

4

13

21

11

Bell Park

9

3

0

6

16

14

9

Elwood City

9

2

2

5

16

21

8

Northern Roosters

9

2

1

6

12

18

7

Melbourne City

9

2

0

7

10

23

6

P

W

D

L

F

A

P

Upfield

9

8

1

0

28

10

21

Epping City

8

7

0

1

20

7

2

Elwood City

9

6

1

2

32

16

1

Lalor Utd

9

5

1

3

16

11

1

Hoppers Crossing

9

5

0

4

19

10

1

Bell Park

9

3

3

3

12

12

1

Northern Roosters

9

3

2

4

21

24

1

Melbourne Tornado

9

3

1

5

26

29

1

Moreland Utd

9

3

1

5

9

12

1

Plenty Valley Lions

9

2

1

6

12

24

1

Melbourne City

9

1

1

7

8

32

1

West Preston

8

0

2

6

14

30

1

Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Darebin Utd 3 (E Bayraktar 2 C Vithoulkas) Essendon Royals 3 (M Strasser 2 A Sirin), Heidelberg Stars 2 (N Yussuf 2) Melton Phoenix FC 0, Mill Park 3 Brimbank Stallions 3, Watsonia Heights 3 Meadow Park Eagles 1 (A Minutoli), Youth Utd 2 (N Ozdemir E Seckin) Balmoral FC 0, Moreland Wolves 1 Brunswick Zebras 3

Darebin Utd 0 Essendon Royals 5 (J Grech L Mungherli C Grillo 2 R Marchioli), Heidelberg Stars 7 Melton Phoenix FC 3, Mill Park 0 Brimbank Stallions 4, Watsonia Heights 8 Meadow Park Eagles 1, Youth Utd 3 Balmoral FC 3 (M Hot A Hassan 2), Moreland Wolves 1 Brunswick Zebras 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essendon Royals	9	7	1	1	30	16	22	Watsonia Heights	9	9	0	0	39	6	2
Brunswick Zebras	9	6	1	2	28	16	19	Heidelberg Stars	9	6	1	2	51	18	1
Heidelberg Stars	9	6	1	2	21	14	19	Moreland Wolves	9	5	2	2	23	13	1
Moreland Wolves	9	6	0	3	24	15	18	Melton Phoenix FC	9	5	1	3	16	16	1
Brimbank Stallions	9	5	2	2	24	15	14	Brimbank Stallions	9	6	0	3	16	10	1
Darebin Utd	9	4	1	4	11	14	13	Essendon Royals	9	4	0	5	23	16	1
Watsonia Heights	9	4	0	5	22	16	12	Brunswick Zebras	8	3	2	3	18	12	1
Meadow Park Eagles	9	3	2	4	18	21	11	Youth Utd	8	2	1	5	17	29	
Youth Utd	9	3	1	5	14	23	10	Darebin Utd	8	2	1	5	8	21	
Balmoral FC	9	2	3	4	29	26	9	Meadow Park Eagles	8	2	1	5	6	39	
Mill Park	9	1	1	7	5	28	4	Balmoral FC	9	1	3	5	13	18	
Melton Phoenix FC	9	0	1	8	6	28	1	Mill Park	9	1	0	8	4	36	

Seniors

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Reserves

Casey Comets 4 Doncaster Rovers 0, Dandenong City 2 (V Juric T Razov) Eastern Lions 0, Diamond Valley Utd 3 Malvern City 4, Heatherton Utd 1 Box Hill United 2 (P Tichy G Petrovic), Knox City 2 South Springvale 2, Morwell Pegasus 1 Noble Park Utd 4

Casey Comets 3 Doncaster Rovers 4, Dandenong City 2 (J Adeosun 2) Eastern Lions 2, Diamond Valley Utd 0 Malvern City 0, Heatherton Utd 1 Box Hill United 1, Knox City 2 South Springvale 0, Morwell Pegasus 0 Noble Park Utd 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong City	9	7	0	2	23	9	21	Knox City	9	6	1	2	25	14	19
Malvern City	9	6	0	3	24	19	18	Noble Park Utd	9	5	1	3	23	17	16
Eastern Lions	9	5	2	2	18	9	17	Eastern Lions	9	4	4	1	15	14	16
Noble Park Utd	9	5	1	3	17	13	16	Doncaster Rovers	9	4	2	3	22	14	14
Box Hill United	9	4	3	2	15	11	15	Box Hill United	9	3	5	1	13	10	14
South Springvale	9	4	2	3	14	15	14	Malvern City	9	3	3	3	17	13	12
Casey Comets	9	4	1	4	17	11	13	Diamond Valley Utd	9	3	3	3	15	19	12
Diamond Valley Utd	9	3	4	2	18	12	13	Dandenong City	8	2	4	2	10	13	10
Morwell Pegasus	9	3	1	5	16	16	10	South Springvale	9	3	2	4	10	16	10
Heatherton Utd	9	2	1	6	11	19	7	Casey Comets	9	2	3	4	17	14	8
Knox City	9	1	2	6	9	26	5	Morwell Pegasus	9	1	2	6	14	24	5
Doncaster Rovers	9	1	1	7	7	20	4	Heatherton Utd	8	1	2	5	10	23	5

[illegible]

Seniors

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Beaumaris 3 Brandon Park 0, Monash University 0 Warragul Utd 4 (T Ahmadzai J Baldwin D Moos S Byers), Old Camberwell Grammar 2 Mooroolbark 0, Old Melbourne 1 Lyndale Utd 1, Sandringham SC 2 Hampton Park United Sparrows 2 (T Ithier V Mondon), Springvale City 3 Skye Utd 2 (J Roach L Presti)

P

W

D

L

F

A

P

Beaumaris

9

7

0

2

26

21

21

Warragul Utd

9

6

2

1

22

7

20

Springvale City

9

6

2

1

17

6

20

Hampton Park United

8

4

4

0

19

13

16

Old Melbourne

8

3

3

2

23

17

12

Mooroolbark

9

3

2

4

18

22

11

Sandringham SC

8

4

1

3

21

12

10

Old Camberwell Grammar

9

2

1

6

9

15

7

Lyndale Utd

9

1

4

4

12

21

7

Monash University

7

1

3

3

11

21

6

Skye Utd

9

1

1

7

14

25

4

Brandon Park

8

1

1

6

6

18

4

Beaumaris 2 Brandon Park 2, Monash University 4 Warragul Utd 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Mooroolbark 1 (BW Henriques), Old Melbourne 3 Lyndale Utd 0, Sandringham SC 4 Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 1 (A Bernini), Springvale City 0 Skye Utd 4 (F Dimu 2 A Kassim A Margheriti)

P

W

D

L

F

A

P

Mooroolbark

9

7

1

1

36

14

22

Sandringham SC

8

6

1

1

31

11

16

Monash University

7

4

3

0

19

9

15

Old Melbourne

7

4

1

2

20

6

13

Warragul Utd

8

4

1

3

22

16

13

Beaumaris

8

3

2

3

18

16

11

Old Camberwell Grammar

9

3

2

4

13

18

11

Skye Utd

8

2

4

2

16

20

10

Brandon Park

8

1

3

4

8

24

6

Lyndale Utd

9

1

2

6

11

23

5

Springvale City

8

1

1

6

6

20

4

Hampton Park United

7

1

1

5

7

30

4

Seniors		PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST							Reserves								
Ashburton United 1 (P Alexopoulos) Keysborough 1, Casey Kings 1 Monbulk 1, Boroondara Eagles 0 Riversdale 1 (A Robertson), Endeavour Utd 3 Caulfield United Cobras SC 1, Old Carey 0 Bayside Argonauts 2, Seaford Utd 4 Uni. of Melbourne 3 (RL Clark R Gough 2)									Ashburton United 2 Keysborough 3, Casey Kings 2 Monbulk 2, Boroondara Eagles 0 Riversdale 4, Endeavour Utd 0 Caulfield United Cobras SC 0, Old Carey 0 Bayside Argonauts 1, Seaford Utd 4 Uni. of Melbourne 0								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		
Bayside Argonauts	9	5	2	2	22	11	17	Monbulk	9	6	2	1	30	9	20		
Monbulk	9	5	1	3	17	12	16	Keysborough	9	6	2	1	35	21	20		
Old Carey	9	4	2	3	16	15	14	Endeavour Utd	9	5	2	2	16	7	17		
Seaford Utd	9	4	1	4	19	19	13	Ashburton United	9	5	1	3	21	13	15		
Endeavour Utd	9	4	1	4	13	13	13	Seaford Utd	9	5	0	4	22	18	15		
Caulfield United Cobras	9	3	4	2	16	18	13	Uni. of Melbourne	9	5	0	4	16	16	15		
Riversdale	9	4	1	4	14	16	13	Caulfield United Cobras	8	4	2	2	9	7	13		
Keysborough	9	3	3	3	19	14	12	Bayside Argonauts	9	4	0	5	21	17	12		
Casey Kings	9	3	3	5	1	22	15	Old Carey	9	3	3	3	11	11	12		
Ashburton United	9	3	2	4	13	18	11	Boroondara Eagles	9	1	1	7	10	26	4		
Boroondara Eagles	9	2	2	5	13	18	8	Riversdale	8	1	0	7	9	24	3		
Uni. of Melbourne	9	1	2	6	10	25	5	Casey Kings	9	0	3	6	8	39	-1		

Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST	Reserves														
East Bentleigh 1 (L Brooks) Brighton 1 (A Lark), Whitehorse Utd 3 Baxter 1 (D Jurisic), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 (A Donato A Kelemanis) Rowville Eagles 2, White Star Dandenong 0 Collingwood City 1 (T Jones-Roberts), Old Brighton Grammarians 3 Noble Park 2, Middle Park FC 4 Eltham Redback FC 0							East Bentleigh 0 Brighton 1 (S Heemann), Whitehorse Utd 5 Baxter 2 (B Norris J Brown), Old Trinity Grammarians 1 Rowville Eagles 1, White Star Dandenong 0 Collingwood City 5 (K Sherwood 2 G Hoyos A Kokkinos K Clements), Old Brighton Grammarians 6 Noble Park 1, Middle Park FC 7 Eltham Redback FC 1									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Middle Park FC	8	8	0	0	40	7	24	Old Brighton Grammarians	9	8	0	1	24	14	24	
Collingwood City	9	8	0	0	1	22	11	24	Brighton	9	6	2	1	21	13	20
Whitehorse Utd	8	6	1	1	19	9	19	Collingwood City	8	6	1	1	34	8	19	
Rowville Eagles	9	5	2	2	26	17	17	Middle Park FC	8	5	1	2	22	9	16	
Old Brighton Grammarians	9	4	1	4	1	22	18	13	Old Trinity Grammarians	8	5	1	2	21	12	16
White Star Dandenong	9	4	0	5	18	26	12	Baxter	9	5	1	3	28	21	16	
Noble Park	9	3	1	5	21	24	10	Whitehorse Utd	8	4	0	4	20	18	12	
Brighton	9	3	1	5	18	21	10	Rowville Eagles	9	3	1	5	16	23	10	
Old Trinity Grammarians	9	3	1	5	18	26	10	White Star Dandenong	9	2	0	7	21	28	6	
Baxter	9	2	1	6	15	27	7	Eltham Redback FC	9	1	1	7	6	23	4	
Eltham Redback FC	9	2	1	6	11	24	7	Noble Park	9	1	1	7	11	35	4	
East Bentleigh	9	0	1	8	12	32	1	East Bentleigh	9	0	3	6	13	33	3	

State & Provi Round 10 Fixtures	
All matches to be played on Saturday 18th June with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.	
State NW 2	
Geelong v Williamstown	
Stead Park Reserve Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM	
Whittlesea Ranges FC v FC Clifton Hill	
Partridge Reserve	
Altona East Phoenix v Werribee City	
Paisley Park Soccer Complex	
Ballarat Red Devils v Westgate	
Trekardo Park	
Banyule City v Altona City	
Yallambie Park Reserve	
Moreland City v Brunswick City	
Campbell Reserve	
State SE 2	
Doncaster Rovers v Knox City	
Anderson Park Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM	
Casey Comets v Malvern City	
Comets Stadium	
Eastern Lions v Heatherton Utd	
Gardiners Creek Reserve	
Noble Park Utd v Dandenong City	
Parkfield Reserve	
South Springvale v Morwell Pegasus	
Warner Reserve	
Box Hill United v Diamond Valley Utd	
Wembley Park	
State NW 3	
Cairnlea v Maribyrnong Greens	
Cairnlea Park	
Hume Utd v Avondale Heights	
Laura Douglas Reserve	
Keilor Park v Geelong Rangers	
Keilor Park Reserve	
Sunbury Utd v La Trobe University	
Langama Park	
Whittlesea Utd v Sydenham Park	
Thomas Street Recreational Reserve	
Melbourne University v Yarraville Glory	
Princes Park Oval #1	
State SE 3	
Berwick City v Kingston City	
Jack Thomas Reserve Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM	
Croydon City Arrows v Peninsula Strikers	
Dorset Recreational Res Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM	
Old Scotch v Nunawading City FC	
H.A. Smith Reserve	
Mornington v Doveton	
Dallas Brooks Park	
Frankston Pines v Waverley Wanderers	
Monterey Reserve 18 Jun KO 7:00PM	
North Caulfield v Fitzroy City	
Caulfield Park Sun 19 Jun KO 3:00PM	
Provi NW 1	
Laverton Park v Sporting Whittlesea FC	
Laverton Park Reserve	
Northern Falcons v North Sunshine Eagles	
Hayes Park	
South Yarra v FC Strathmore	
Fawkner Park (North Pavilion)	
Western Eagles v Old Melburnians	
Polish Sports & Recreation	
Essendon Utd v North City Lions	
Aberfeldie Park	
Surf Coast v Corio	
Quay Reserve	
Provi SE 1	
Warragul Utd v Sandringham SC	
Baxter Park (Warragul)	
Brandon Park v Old Melburnians	
Freeway Reserve	
Skye Utd v Monash University	
Skye Recreational Reserve	
Old Camberwell Gram v Hampton Park Utd	
Deepdene Park	
Mooroolbark v Beaumaris	
Esther Park Reserve	
Springvale City v Lyndale Utd	
Ross Reserve	
Provi NW 2	
Bell Park v Epping City	
Bell Park Sports Club	
Elwood City v Melbourne City	
Elwood Park	
Hoppers Crossing v West Preston	
Grange Reserve	
Lalor Utd v Melbourne Tornado	
HR Uren Reserve	
Plenty Valley Lions v Moreland Utd	
Sycamore Reserve	
Upfield v Northern Roosters	
Gibb Reserve	
Provi SE 2	
Monbulk v Endeavour Utd	
Monbulk Recreational Res Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM	
Riversdale v Casey Kings	
Frog Hollow Reserve	
Ashburton United v Caulfield United Cobras	
Ashburton Park	
Keysborough v Old Carey	
Coomoora Reserve	
Uni. of Melbourne v Boroondara Eagles	
Princes Park Oval #2	
Bayside Argonauts v Seaford Utd	
Shipston Reserve	
Provi NW 3	



Big results recorded for State & Provi leagues

By Michal Skrodsky

Well F-Heads (F being for football) another weekend has passed and the picture in the Victorian lower leagues is just that little bit clearer. There were many big results and as always I'll take you right through the action, you'll feel as if you were at these matches!

State 2 NW saw Moreland City snap their losing streak with a 5-1 thrashing over Westgate. In the match of the round Werribee and Whittlesea Ranges played out a 0-0 draw meaning Whittlesea maintain 2nd spot, 3 points behind Moreland but with a crucial game in hand. Brunswick City caused a huge shock, like walking into you parents bedroom when their doing it, smashing the star-studded Hillmen from Clifton Hill 5-1 away. Altona City and Banyule City continue to struggle, both teams lost again and sit on one point, 4 points away from 10th and the safety zone. Next weekend there are a few catch up games in this league, including the derby of the Serbian giants of the west, Williamstown and Westgate!

State 2 SE saw first placed Dandenong City take on 2nd place Eastern Lions in a critical match, and it was Dandenong City who put the Lions back in their place with a convincing 2-0 win. Malvern City managed to jump Eastern Lions into 2nd spot thanks to a thrilling 4-3 win on the road to Diamond Valley. The road down to Morwell was also smooth and straight for Noble Park who won on it (the road that is) 4-1 at Pegasus. Next week there are no catch up games, but the week after it's the grudge match the FFV is looking forward too as it could result in big pay day via fines, Noble Park United vs Dandenong City!

State 3 NW also saw a 1st vs 2nd ding-dong, ping-pong, dim-sim battle. Avondale Heights hosted Keilor Park, it was a tight match until the 66th minute when Keilor opened the scoring. As the match wore on Avondale pushed for a vital equaliser but were caught at the back 3 more times and the boys in Purple ran riot with a 4-0 win. The most entertaining match



Simon O' Donnell scores twice for Berwick City in the 74th and 87th minutes.

though was at Cairnlea Park in the Turkish derby! Cairnlea wnet up 4-0 at half time over last placed Whittlesea United but the boys from Thomastown rallied but came up short, 6-4 at full time for Cairnlea. But the real winner was the Cairnlea canteen selling many a kebab! Yarraville has popped up into 2nd thanks to smashing lowly Maribyrnong Greens 5-1. This weeks results have tightened this league up, the gap between 2nd and 8th is now only three points. There are no catch up games next week.

State 3 SE saw Mornington top the table two weeks in a row, this week they downed Waverley Wanderers 2-1 on the road. Old Scotch bounced back after last weeks loss with a tough 2-0 win away to Peninsula Strikers. Doveton's 4-2 win over Croydon City had thrills, chills and Saturday pills. Kingston should take 2nd spot back off Old Scotch as they face last placed Frankston Pines tonight at home. Again, there are no catch up games next week.

Provisional 1 NW has Corio sitting pretty on top 6 points ahead of second, this week the easily put away

Essendon United 6-0. After putting in a great performance midweek vs VPL outfit Melbourne Knights in the Cup, North Sunshine were held to a 2-2 draw at Westvale. The mighty Western Eagles had a heart beaking loss, the boys from Albion led the North City Lions 1-0 at the break but the Lions equalised in 66th minute and the scored a winner in injury time. Due to the tightness of this league, North Sunshine have dropped into 4th and South Yarra is back into 2nd and Sporting Whittlesea are into 3rd. Again, there are no catch up games next week.

Provisional 1 SE has Beaumaris remain ontop, this week they brushed off the challenge of Brandon Park, 3-0 to Beauy. Warragul had a 4-0 win and are still in 2nd while Springvale City also had a win, 3-2 over Skye United and are still 3rd and still only goal difference separate Warragul and Spingvale City. Next week 2 matches will be caught-up, Brandon Park vs Monash Uni and Old Melburnians vs Sandringham City.

Provisional 2 NW had the top three teams all drop points, therefore the

top three remain the same. Moreland United on top, who drew 0-0 with Elwood City, West Preston in 2nd, who were held 1-1 at home to Lalor United in a grudge match, and Hoppers Crossing in third after a disappointing 3-0 loss on the road to Epping City. Epping are the biggest winners this week who are now in 4th and in back in touch with the league leaders. There was a relegation battle this week too, Bell Park had a crucial 1-0 away win at Melbourne City. Bell Park are now out of the bottom two while Melbourne City are dead last. No catch up games are being played next week.

Provisional 2 SE had Monbulk drop from 1st into 2nd as they were held 1-1 at Casey Kings. Bayside Argonauts retook top spot after a huge 2-0 win at Old Carey. Seaford played out a thrilling 4-3 win over the Uni of Melbourne. Not much has opened up again in this leager, 3 points is the difference between 3rd and 10th. Again, there are no catch up games next week.

Provisional 3 NW was a little tamer than usual with no team scoring more



North Caulfield's (Blue) Michael Braude goes in for the tackle against his Berwick City opponent.

than 3 goals this week. Brunswick Zebras had a season making 3-1 win at 2nd placed Moreland Wolves and are now in 2nd place themselves. Essendon Royals breathed a sigh of relief when they say that result as they dropped 2 points this week with a 3-3 draw at Darebin United. Darebin must be kicking themselves, not only did they let a 2-0 lead slip, but they let Aydin Simin score Essendon's equaliser for 3-3 in the 92nd minute. Heidelberg Stars are into 3rd now after a 2-0 win at Melton Phoenix. Again, there are no catch up games next week.

Provisional 3 SE saw the mighty White Star Dandenong put up a brave fight against the high-flying Collingwood City but went down by the solitary goal, 1-0. Middle Park had a comfortable 4-0 win over Eltham Redbacks and both Middle Park and Collingwood are on 24 points, 5 points ahead of 3rd placed Whitehorse United. East Bentleigh are celebrating their first point of the season (the last team to gain a point this season) after a 1-1 draw with Brighton, surprisingly they were only 3 minutes away from a 1-0 win but Alexander

Lark broke East's hearts with an 87th minute goal for Brighton. It seems like East Bentleigh's luck must have deserted them this season, maybe they can find it on the planet Neptune. Next week Whitehorse take on Middle Park (who have a 100% record) in a crucial catch up game, Whitehorse are 3rd and if they want to join the promotion race party, currently a 2 man party, they must get a result next week.

Well there you have it people, that was Round 9. Plenty of late drama all over Victoria proving the game isn't over until it's over and that you must fight with all your might till the last whistle, or till you fall over from exhaustion, whichever comes first. Next week most your teams enjoy a well-deserved week off to celebrate some old lady's birthday, BUT, if your team is playing in a catch up match then you better cancel your long weekend plans and get to your clubs' game and let them know that you are with them, for better and for worse!

CRUNCHALOR!



Nat Vardi scores North Caulfield's second goal in the 62nd minute.



Berwick goalkeeper Dennis Martin flies through the air.



Dennis Martin in the thick of the action once again.

5-A-SIDE
INDOOR
SOCCER

LOCATIONS INCLUDE:
CAMBERWELL
COLLINGWOOD
CARLTON NORTH
VERMONT SOUTH
CAULFIELD
GLEN WAVERLEY
FOOTSCRAY
BOX HILL
PRESTON
HAWTHORN
CARLTON
ENDEAVOUR HILLS

MENS & MIXED
COMPETITIONS
0433 000 444
info@super5s.org
www.super5s.org

No change at the top as WPL enters break

By Niki Cook

After Round 10 of the Women's Premier League there was no change at the top, with Casey Comets continuing to head the ladder.

Sandringham kept up the pressure on the Comets, but there were defeats for the two other teams in the top four, Heidelberg United and South Melbourne Women's. Box Hill United picked up a win, while there were also victories for Ashburton and Altona City. With the competition now past the halfway mark of the season, the top four seems to be taking shape, while at the other end, it seems that only a miracle will save Doncaster from a swift return to the State League.

Box Hill United notched its fifth victory of the season thanks to a two goal second half against Doncaster Rovers on Friday night. Neither side was able to find the net in the first half, but United broke the deadlock five minutes after the restart. It doubled its advantage fifteen minutes from time, and the home side was unable to find a way back into the game. United goals came from veteran Yvette Muscat and Deanna Niceski. Box Hill has experienced an inconsistent season, alternating between victories and defeats for the last five rounds, but it ends the round fifth on the ladder, three points outside the top four.

Doncaster remains at the foot of the ladder following this, its ninth defeat in eleven games. Having suffered its third defeat of the season on Monday night, going down 2-0 at home to South Melbourne Women's, Sandringham regrouped swiftly to see off VCL Country 3-0 on Saturday. Whilst the regional side had not been in stellar form, losing three of its previous four games leading into this match, it had the potential to be a tricky fixture for Sandringham, given that it was played at Diamonds on La Trobe, out in Wodonga.

The visitor, however, took control of the game early, taking the lead inside the opening ten minutes through Emma Runnalls. 1-0 was how the scoreline remained until eight minutes into the second half, when Hannah Stuart doubled the advantage. Stuart sealed the win with her second, and Sandringham's third, fifteen minutes from time.

The result ensures that Sandringham remains second on the ladder, one point behind Casey Comets. VCL Country slips to tenth, with six points from its eleven games, having been also recently docked three points for a match record infringement.

Altona City continued its climb away from the foot of the ladder with its third victory in four matches, as it defeated Bundoora United 2-0 at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday. A first half penalty from Ellvana Curo eight minutes before the interval set the home side on its way to victory, before Padiki Dade



A bold save by Box Hill's goal keeper Cassandra Dimovski as she dives on the ball to stop what would have been a goal if Rover's Jessica humble was there a split second earlier. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Box Hill's Yvette Muscat scored in the 50th minute with the help of Louisa Bisby. Photo: ANITA MILAS

made sure of the three points with a second sixteen minutes from time. Altona has now moved to eighth on the ladder, three points behind Ashburton. With last weekend's match between those two teams having been postponed, the game when rescheduled could prove crucial to determining the WPL future of both teams. Bundoora's fifth defeat of the season means that it drops to sixth, and it misses the opportunity to close the gap on the top four.

A second half goal rush from Ashburton propelled it to an upset victory over Heidelberg United at Ashburton Park on Sunday afternoon, giving the

home side a vital three points that kept it above Altona on the ladder. After a goalless first half, two goals in the first ten minutes of the second period gave Ashburton a healthy advantage, before it sealed the win with a third three minutes from time. It was Ashburton's fourth victory of the season, lifting its points tally to thirteen from ten matches. The defeat was Heidelberg's third of the campaign, and it drops a place on the ladder to third as a result.

Two sides in the top four battled it out at Comets Stadium on Sunday, as Casey Comets took on South Melbourne Women's. It was the home side that



Box Hill United's Ruby Foottit and Doncaster Rover's captain Renee Zairis. Photo: ANITA MILAS

emerged victorious, and maintained its place at the top of the WPL ladder as a result. Casey took the lead on fifteen minutes through Aimee Benton, before Tiffany Eliadis squared the ledger just after the half hour to take the teams into the interval locked at one goal apiece. Benton restored her side's lead midway through the second half, before Melissa Atherton made certain of the three points with a penalty deep into stoppage time. Casey is one point clear of Sandringham at the top of the ladder, with 25 points from its eleven games. South remains fourth, with twenty points, but now only three points ahead of

fifth placed Bundoora United. The match scheduled for last Wednesday night, between VCL Country and the Emerging Athlete Program, was postponed and will now be played on Sunday 21st August. While this is after the final round of the regular season, with neither side able to be relegated or participate in finals, the match will have no bearing on final league positions. Wednesday night sees the final match in Round 10, with Altona City looking to continue its recent good run when it takes on the EAP at DISC. The competition then takes a break for the long weekend, before continuing

WPL RESULTS
Doncaster Rovers 0 Box Hill United 2 (Y Muscat D Niceski)
VCL Country 0 Sandringham SC 3 (H Stuart 2 E Runnalls),
Altona City 2 Bundoora Utd 0
Ashburton 3 Heidelberg Utd 0
Casey Comets 3 South Melbourne Womens FC 1
Reserves: Doncaster Rovers 1 Box Hill United 5, Altona City 0 Bundoora Utd 0, Ashburton 1 Heidelberg Utd 2, Casey Comets 1 South Melbourne Womens FC 3

WPL LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Casey Comets	11	8	1	2	28	12	25
Sandringham	11	8	0	3	27	9	24
Heidelberg Utd	11	7	1	3	20	16	22
South Melb	11	6	2	3	26	11	20
Box Hill United	11	5	2	4	19	18	17
Bundoora Utd	11	5	1	5	16	12	16
Ashburton	10	4	1	5	16	19	13
Altona City	09	3	1	5	11	18	10
Emerging Ath	09	3	0	6	18	26	9
VCL Country	11	3	0	8	11	28	6
Doncaster R	11	1	1	9	8	31	4

WPL Next Round
Emerging Athlete v Ashburton DISC - Pitch 1 Wed 15 Jun KO 7:30PM
Bundoora Utd v Box Hill United Epping Soccer Stadium Sat 18 Jun KO 2:00PM
Altona City v Casey Comets HC Kim Reserve Sun 19 Jun KO 1:00PM
Ashburton v VCL Country Ashburton Park Sun 19 Jun KO 3:00PM
Sandringham SC v Doncaster Rovers Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Mon 20 Jun KO 8:30PM
Heidelberg Utd v South Melbourne Olympic Village Mon 20 Jun KO 8:30PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	9	9	0	0	41	6	27
South Melb	9	6	2	1	26	10	20
Sandringham	8	4	1	3	10	6	13
Bundoora Utd	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Ashburton	8	3	0	5	18	17	9
Heidelberg Utd	9	2	3	4	13	21	9
Altona City	8	2	3	3	7	20	9
Casey Comets	9	2	2	5	17	19	8
Doncaster R	9	0	2	7	8	39	2
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

next Wednesday when the EAP and Ashburton meet at DISC for the first match in Round 11. Bundoora United and Box Hill United face off at Epping Stadium on Saturday in a match that could go a long way to determining whether either side can force its way into finals contention. Sunday sees action at HC Kim Reserve as Altona City hosts Casey Comets, while at Ashburton Park Ashburton meets VCL Country. The remaining two matches take place on Monday night, with Sandringham welcoming Doncaster Rovers to Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, while Heidelberg United and South Melbourne Women's do battle at Olympic Village.

BOTH LEADERS DROP POINTS

Elcho Park was the venue that saw round 9 kick off proceedings for State League first division with the game between North Geelong Warriors and Fawknor Blues. The visit to Geelong was worthwhile for Fawknor with the Blues bagging all 3 points. Pascoe Vale continued their resurgence under new coach Vitale Ferrante with a close win over Bulleen, but the big news on Saturday was the loss of 3 points by Altona Magic following the 2-0 loss to Pascoe Vale the week before. Altona managed to get a share of the points with the league leaders as did Sunshine George Cross who also shared the points with second placed Port Melbourne. Langwarrin bounced back to the winner's circle with a 3-1 win over the inconsistent Preston Lions, while Whittlesea managed to edge out Western Suburbs 3-1.

BLUES FAR TOO SUPERIOR FOR WARRIORS NORTH GEELONG WARRIORS 0 FAWKNER BLUES 2

Fawknor Blues were far too superior for the young North Geelong Warriors side, winning 2-0, despite being reduced to 10 men for 60 minutes of the match. Fawknor took the initiative from the start and went ahead after only 9 minutes through Robert Doleveski who caught the home team's defence off guard when he got on to a long ball from his defence. The Blues had to readjust their game following the dismissal of Raymond Lally after only 30 minutes. North tried lifting their game but were never convincing going forward. They found it difficult holding the ball in final third of the ground with the Fawknor defence well in command. Fawknor made sure of all 3 points when Robert Dolevski scored his and the Blues second goal in the 61 minute of the match. The win lifts Fawknor into the top four while North Geelong climbed off the bottom of the ladder with Altona magic's 3 points deduction. North Geelong coach Ante Skoko will be looking the strengthen his side's attack when the transfer window opens next week.

PASCOE VALE FINDING FORM PASCOE VALE 1 FC BULLEEN LIONS 0

A great headed goal by Luca Santilli was all that seperated these two sides after a very keenly contested match at Hosken Reserve. In a fast and open encounter Pascoe Vale took the early initiative and were rewarded with the only goal of the game after 15 minutes. Bulleen responded well to the set back and came close to equalising before the break. The second half continued in the same vein both sides going everything possible to take control. Bulleen was unfortunate not to score following a goal mouth scramble that was cleared by the desperate Pascoe



Luca Santilli (left) and Adrian Talarico are walking on air after Pascoe Vale took the lead. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Frank Serratore (Pascoe Vale) hitches a ride on the back of Alex Khrapko (Bulleen) PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Vale defence, and at the other end the home team failed to convert a one on one situation that the Bulleen keeper Patrick Ndongo did well to evert further damage for his side. The second successive win for Pascoe Vale lifts them well clear of the danger zone and in with a shot at promotion spot. Bulleen can take heart from the performance, but the loss leaves them in the uncomfortable zone.

MAGIC HALTS STARS' WINNING STREAK SOUTHERN STARS 2 ALTONA MAGIC 2

It's been a disappointing week for Altona Magic with the news the club has been deducted 3 points for fielding an ineligible player in the game against Pascoe Vale. Altona Magic then faced with the prospects of taking on league leader Southern Stars in game the Magic had to win, after finding themselves proping up all the other first division teams. To thier credit Altona came away with a share of the points from their visit to Kingston Heath, after holding Southern Stars to a 2-2 draw. Southern Stars were first to score following a corner that was converted by Pdraig Gollogley after 20 minutes. Magic was back

on level terms 15 minutes later with a similar goal scored by Sime Kovacevic. The start of the second half produced possibly the quickest goal from a kick off this season, with Altona taking a 2-1 lead within 25 seconds of the re-start. The planned move of playing a long ball forward for George Papadopoulos to run onto paid dividends, with the diminutive striker catching the Stars defence napping, to put Magic 2-1 ahead. Southern Stars were thrown off their guard for a while, but steadied and drew level after 70 minutes following a good run and goal by Chris Greechan. The home team went all out for the winner, but could not penetrate again with the Magic defence standing firm.

LANGWARRIN TEAR LIONS APART PRESTON LIONS 1 LANGWARRIN 3

Both sides went into this match at BT Connor Reserve smarting following defeats the previous round, and it was very even throughout the first half with Langwarrin having the better of the chances. Preston did however go into the break a goal up with a superb shot from long range that gave Langwar-



Liam Flynn (Pascoe Vale) beats Tim Mala in the air. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Luca Santilli's diving flick on beats Srdjan Stefanovic and Bulleen keeper Patrick Ndongo to put Pascoe Vale into the lead. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

rin's keeper Michael Sivilja no chance of saving. Langwarrin was a different team in the second half and set siege on the Preston goal. The visitors drew level after 55th minutes when Caleb Nicholes scored and they missed a golden opportunity to take the lead 5 minutes when they missed a penalty. Langwarrin were awarded another penalty in the 65th minute and this time Caleb Nicholes made no mistake to oput the visitors in front. Preston did their best to get back into the game, but it was Simon Mur who sealed Preston's fate with a third goal in the 85th minute.

PORT HOLD GEORGIES AT BAY SUN GEORGE CROSS 1 PORT MELBOURNE 1

The points were shared at Chaplin Reserve after Sunshine George Cross and Port Melbourne Sharks played out a 1-1 draw. The Georgies were off to a flying start scoring after only 3 minutes when George Slefendorfas' well floated lob from 25

metres caught Port's keeper out to give the home team the lead. It was a very cagey affair for the remainder of the first half with Port Melbourne drawing level through a Nick Kalambokis-header after 31 minutes. The Georgies took the initiative after the break and was in complete control throughout the second half. The home team took over in midfield with Brendan Beni and Ben Cogger winning lot's of possession. Sunshine's defence led by twin coaches Con Anthopouols and Barry Devlin gave nothing away at the back and it was similar at the other end with Felix Rosman masterful at the back. Rosman and his co-defenders were able to hold a rampant Sunshine at bay. The home team had a penalty appeal denied as well as a goal disallowed for offside in the 80th minute when Con Anthopoulos headed past Adam Hrehoresin.

FINE HAT-TRICK BY VINCE FAHERTY WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS 3 WESTERN SUBURBS 1

SL1 RESULTS
North Geelong Warriors 0 Fawknor Blues 2 (R Dolevski 2)
Pascoe Vale 1 (L Santilli) FC Bulleen Lions 0
Southern Stars 2 Altona Magic 2
Preston Lions 1 Langwarrin 3
Sunshine George Cross 1 Port Melbourne 1
Whittlesea Zebras 3 Western Suburbs 1
U21s: North Geelong Warriors 0 Fawknor Blues 3, Pascoe Vale 1 FC Bulleen Lions 5, Southern Stars 4 Altona Magic 2, Preston Lions 2 Langwarrin 3, Sunshine George Cross 3 Port Melbourne 4, Whittlesea Zebras 5 Western Suburbs 3

SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Stars	9	7	1	1	17	9	22
Port Melbourne	9	6	3	0	16	7	21
Whittlesea Z	8	5	1	2	12	7	16
Fawknor Blues	9	5	0	4	13	7	15
Pascoe Vale	9	4	0	5	13	8	12
Langwarrin	8	3	2	3	12	13	11
Western Sub	9	3	2	4	11	16	11
Preston Lions	9	3	1	5	15	21	10
Bulleen Lions	9	2	2	5	7	9	8
Sun George X	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
North Geelong	9	2	0	7	6	17	6
Altona Magic	8	2	2	4	8	12	5

SL1 Next Round
Port Melbourne v Preston Lions <i>SS Anderson Reserve</i> <i>Fri 17 Jun KO 8:30PM</i>
Altona Magic v North Geelong Warriors <i>Paisley Park Socce...</i> <i>Sat 18 Jun KO 3:00PM</i>
Fawknor Blues v Western Suburbs <i>CB Smith Reserve</i> <i>Sat 18 Jun KO 3:00PM</i>
Langwarrin v Pascoe Vale <i>Lawton Park Reserve</i> <i>Sat 18 Jun KO 3:00PM</i>
Sun George Cross v Whittlesea Zebras <i>Chaplin Reserve</i> <i>Sun 19 Jun KO 3:00PM</i>
FC Bulleen Lions v Southern Stars <i>Veneto Social Club...</i> <i>Mon 20 Jun KO 8:30PM</i>

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	9	7	0	2	34	12	21
Western Sub	9	7	0	2	22	19	21
Fawkner Blues	9	5	2	2	24	15	17
Whittlesea Z	8	5	1	2	20	15	16
Southern Stars	9	5	1	3	23	23	16
Langwarrin	8	5	0	3	16	12	15
Pascoe Vale	9	4	1	4	22	23	13
North Geelong	9	3	1	5	15	14	10
Port Melbourne	9	2	2	5	13	21	8
Sun George X	8	1	2	5	18	28	5
Preston Lions	9	1	1	7	15	29	4
Altona Magic	8	0	3	5	10	21	0

The Whittlesea Zebras bounced back to form to defeat Western Suburbs 3-1 at Epping Stadium. The Zebras were keen to make amends after last week's disappointing loss to Port Melbourne but it was Western Suburbs who made all the early running and the more treathening. The game swung in Whittlesea favour once Vince Faherty opened the scoring after 25 minutes. Defences of both sides were well in control until the floodgates opened late in the game. Vince Faherty scored his second to make it 2-0 after 85. Just when the Zebras fans thought the game was in the bag Western Suburbs pulled a goal back after 87 minutes to set up an exciting finish. It was that man Faherty who sealed the match with his third goal of the game that allowed him to take home the match ball as a souvenir.

By Matthew Montgomery

Fitzroy FC v Ashburton FC (10-3)
Once again, another Wednesday night was upon us to deliver six games of quality futsal in the prestigious NIKE V-league, and to kick off the nights preceding's saw 4th placed Fitzroy up against a resurgent Ashburton side in 7th. Ashburton managed to keep together the side that had disposed of FC Prahran last week, only missing striker Simon La Manda. Fitzroy's squad, as always, was at full strength, but they were to go into the game without manager Ali Rasoulzadeh. The first half could not have started any better for the Fitzroy boys as they raced to a 3-0 lead, with keeper Dianooosh opening the scoring with an absolute blinder from the half-way line. Ashburton's Dima Nichiforencu kept his side in the contest with goal going between Rasoulzadeh's legs, but there wasn't enough defensive pressure from Ashburton as the half ended 5-1. The second half, like the first, saw Fitzroy dominate their opposition all over the pitch, as every player in yellow was desperate to receive the ball. Strikers Cameron Holmes and Samim Mehjeri relished their opportunity of getting more game time by running amok and getting into great scoring positions for both themselves and their team-mates, as Haider Noor, Hamid Hassanikhoo, Mehjeri and even keeper Dianooosh Rasoulzadeh scored a brace! Holmes and defender Shayan Rashidi contributed singles only. As the margin became too great for Ashburton to recover from, they seemed to give up. This is not a good sign from a team wanting to break into the top four. Some leadership was shown through star players Mark Burton and James Blackburn both scoring singles, but to become a real 'threat' they need players who play for the team and not for themselves.

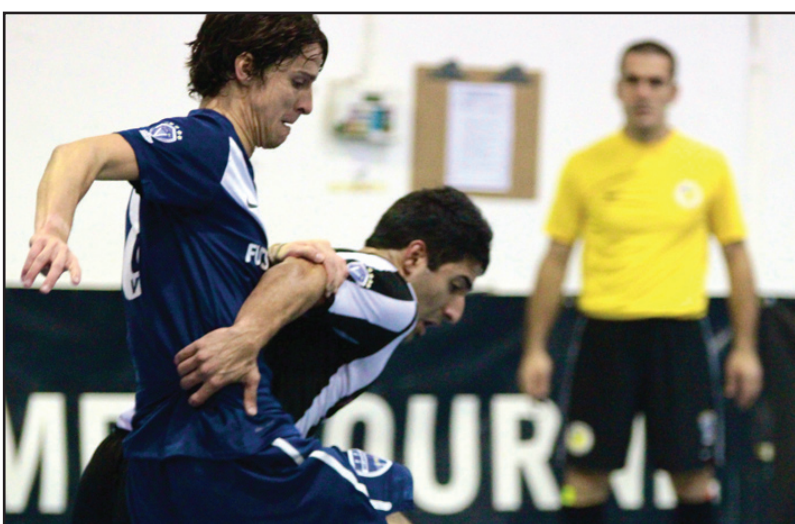
FC Prahran v FC Essendon (11-3)
It was a season defining clash for the newly formed FC Prahran boys as they took on a confident FC Essendon in the second game of the night. Prahran, who were widely tipped as the side to challenge Pascoe Vale for the title, were without a win since defeating Balwyn in round 1 and were sitting in 9th position. The pressure was on to perform against an Essendon side who narrowly lost 5-7 to the champions last week. But it was Prahran who came out on all cylinders firing, as talisman, Maxi Avram scored a peach of a goal past Essendon's keeper Ned Torbika almost immediately after kick-off. The Prahran boys also welcomed the return of playmaker Marcus Barbosa as he teed up Ernie Simsek for his sides second and then scored himself only minutes after. The score at half time was 3-1 as Essendon's hardened defender, Igor Stevanovic pegged the score back. New Prahran keeper, Michael Chami who was brought in to replace the under-performing Jamie Tran, was a great inclusion as he commanded his defence and made his presence felt in the second half. As Essendon strikers Dusan Bosniak and Alexander Stevanovic peppered the Prahran goal, Chami stood firm. The absence of key players Ivan Pajic and Boza Lojanica really seemed to be too much of a loss for Essendon as Barbosa and Avram dominated possession on the way to scoring a hat-trick and a brace respectively. Well backed up by doubles from Ben Armstrong, Adam Hussein and Ernie Simsek, Prahran romped to a much needed 11-3 win. Essendon's lack of speed was well exposed by the creative Prahran. Now 6th on the ladder, hopefully they can continue their good form against Pascoe Vale next week.

FC Melbourne v Pascoe Vale FC (0-4)
The third game of the night saw the champions of last seasons V-League, Pascoe Vale, pitted against the champions of last seasons State League FC Melbourne. It was always going to be an uphill battle

Who will burst the Pascoe Vale bubble?



FC Prahran. A team on the rise.



In a man-of-the-match performance, Pascoe Vale's 2 goal hero Ahmed Azzam (R) challenges Melbourne forward David Fletcher (L).

for Melbourne, but the 'dark blues' have an amazing amount of self-belief in each other and have never backed down from taking on tough opposition (they lost 5-4 to Metro in round 2). The first half was as very close as Melbourne had opted for a man-on-man style of play to counter Pascoe Vale's mobility, and to break the dead-lock, Pascoe Vale defender Ahmed Azzam stepped up to slot a perfectly positioned strike past Ralph Ruz, off the post and into the back of the net. Not long after, Pascoe Vale's ever-present striker, Joao Da Silva doubled their lead. Melbourne, despite being 2-0 down were content with their performance as they went into the second half within striking distance of the champs. New recruit for Melbourne, Fabiano De Britto, showed plenty of flair in his NIKE V-League debut as he provided plenty of run and got often got towards the 'vales' goal, but was unable to trouble their keeper Greg Lascaris. In fact, Melbourne hardly troubled Lascaris's goal at all, as the dark blues were so focused on shutting Pascoe Vale down it seemed that they forgot to score! Towards the end of the second half, it was evident how valuable Andre Caro is to the Pascoe Vale line-up as his run, passing, creating and especially scoring were missed. But his absence – through a red card suspension – allowed other players such as Richie Ferguson, Vadim Mazurskiy and Ahmed Azzam to step up, and step up they did as Ferguson provided run, Vadim converted a penalty and Azzam scored his second just

before the full-time whistle. It was a solid defensive performance from Melbourne, but not being able to get shots on goal hurt them in the end. Pascoe Vale are still the team to beat and Melbourne can take in a lot of confidence going into next weeks massive game against Balwyn.

Metropolitan v North Melb (3-10)
It is one of the most eagerly anticipated matches on the NIKE V-League fixture when two of the most talented and organised squads in Metropolitan and North Melbourne lock horns. There was a lot riding on the outcome of this match, as both teams were undefeated and both have shown their clear intentions of capturing the inaugural NIKE V-League premiership, and it was the boys from North who dominated the first half flying to a 3-0 lead early on. Led by a Tiago Priore 'goal of the week', Jonathan Barrientos added two goals and a Tomo Grgic own goal rounded out the North goals. Metropolitan captain Alija Redzepovic chased and harassed but could only register one goal for his side. The second half saw North's dominance continue as every player on their list scored. Jonathan Barrientos bagged a hat-trick, Alex Jankovic and Adam Cooper secured a brace each, which left 'regular providers' Mirza Pedic and Tiago Priore with singles. New inclusions for Metro, keeper Damir Salicin and Dino Redzepovic both didn't settle in time to make an impact in the game. Redzepovic – who in his defence is coming off a knee

injury – need time to settle back into the pace of the NIKE V-League. Ivan Zilic made a stunning return with two second half goals, but it was not enough to stay close to a rampaging North side. It didn't help that regular scoring defenders, Tomo Grgic and Jusuf Avdic were held scoreless and un-able to get forward as often like they have in recent weeks, to ease scoring pressure on their strikers. Overall, it was a first-class performance by Milton Sakos's North Melbourne as they join Pascoe Vale in being undefeated after round 5 and have claimed outright second position on the ladder.

Hume FC v Albert Park FC (6-3)
When Hume and Albert Park lined up against each other for their 9:30 encounter, one would have thought that the 'workman' like Hume could easily account for an Albert Park side with the bare minimum of players (5) to begin the match. But to their credit, Albert Park didn't go down without a fight and showed the whole of the NIKE V-League what they were made of as they raced to a 3-0 lead in the first half with goals from regular scorers Josh Berrios, Jason Ioanidis and an own goal from Hume utility Fikri Bozdogan, it was enough to send a panic into the Hume squad. But after their slow start, it was a quick Moe Tankir double that settled their nerves as Hume went into half time with the momentum in their favour. The scores could have been level if Albert Park keeper Fadi Qunqar hadn't saved



Hume FC's giant forward Turhan Sumbol continues his impressive scoring form as he blasted his way to a hat-trick against Albert Park.



Fitzroy's Shayan Rashidi (R) is all smiles as he congratulates his keeper Dianooosh Rasoulzadeh (L) on his unlikely two goal effort.

Fikri Bozdogan's penalty. Hume manager Amin Keddad revved up his troops during the interval to come out swinging after the break, and it was giant power forward Turhan Sumbol who answered his managers S.O.S with three thumping goals. One of them a free-kick which left Albert Park keeper Qunqar in awe of such power. With a limited squad, it's no wonder Albert Park couldn't add to their three goal tally after half-time, as they simply ran out of puff. Captain Jason Ioanidis should realise that he can't expect to beat a quality side such as Hume with a squad of only five! If he wants to survive in the NIKE V-League, then he needs to build a squad that will be available week in week out. Well done to Hume for covering the loss of creative players in Diego Assaada and Brukhan Koca with 'hat-trick heroes' Turhan Sumbol and Moe Tankir. Although, Hume manager, Keddad should re-call all of his squad back for next weeks blockbuster clash against CF Brunswick.

FC Balwyn v CF Brunswick (4-5)
The last encounter for the night of round 5 saw 5th placed CF Brunswick go up against an out of sorts FC Balwyn side languishing at the bottom of the ladder. Yet to register a point in the 2011 NIKE V-League season, FC Balwyn have battled in every game they have played, and to improve their squad, manager Matt Obeid recruited former Ashburton youngster Tolga Akturk and Marc Saric. Defender Tony Saric was also a welcome return for

the whites. The boys of Brunswick were not as lucky in their selections as they were without three of their key players in Damir Marusic, Duke Duva and Futsalroo Danny Ngalaue. The scene was set for an entertaining encounter, and thats exactly what the first half delivered as Brunswick raced to an astonishing 4-0 lead before half time, with goals from their in-form striker Ruz Roslan, an impressive double from captain Matthew Piga and an own goal from Balwyn defender Tony Saric. Balwyn looked down and out for the count, as the signs of a comeback weren't visible by any stretch. But a quick goal in the second half by captain Tony Imeri seemed to give Balwyn the confidence they needed to get back into the match, as Jason Barrientos also scored to reduce the deficit to 2-4. New CF recruit, Michael Sharples steadied the ship when he scored his first in Brunswick colours. This didn't deter Balwyn as Imeri and Barrientos completed their braces to really apply the pressure on the reds in the final minutes of the game. It was a lucky escape for Brunswick who were lucky to hold on for the win as momentum was going against them late into the match. It can also be a good sign to grind out a win against the odds! Balwyn manager Matty Obeid will also be satisfied of his sides impressive comeback as they prepare for their BIG chance to get their first win of the season when they take on 11th placed Melbourne next week.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	5	5	0	0	35	14	21	15
2 Nth Melbourne FC	5	4	1	0	44	24	20	13
3 Fitzroy FC	5	4	0	1	32	18	14	12
4 Metropolitan FC	5	4	0	1	36	32	4	12
5 CF Brunswick	5	3	0	2	31	23	8	9
6 FC Prahran	5	2	0	3	34	32	2	6
7 Hume FC	5	2	1	2	29	30	-1	6
8 FC Essendon	5	2	0	3	30	44	-14	6
9 Ashburton FC	5	1	1	3	28	40	-12	4
10 Albert Park FC	5	1	0	4	23	35	-12	3
11 FC Melbourne	5	1	0	4	17	31	-14	3
12 FC Balwyn	5	0	0	5	19	35	-16	0

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS Rd 5 Wed June 1st

6:30 Fitzroy FC v Ashburton FC 10 - 3
7:15 FC Prahran v FC Essendon 11 - 3
8:00 FC Melbourne v Pascoe Vale FC 0 - 4
8:45 Metropolitan FC v Nth Melbourne FC 3 - 10
9:30 Hume FC v Albert Park FC 6 - 3
10:15 FC Balwyn v CF Brunswick 4 - 5

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 5 Wed June 8th

6:30 Fitzroy FC v FC Essendon
7:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Albert Park FC
8:00 FC Prahran v Pascoe Vale FC
8:45 Metropolitan FC v Ashburton FC
9:30 Hume FC v CF Brunswick
10:15 FC Balwyn v FC Melbourne

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1. A. Redzepovic Metro FC	12 Goals
2. R. Roslan CFB	11 Goals
3. M. Avram FCP	10 Goals
4. M. Nyadzayo CFB	10 Goals
5. A. Stevanovic FCE	10 Goals

**Catch the
Futbol Town Show
every Tuesday 7pm
on C31 and C44 Digital**

FUTSAL OZ TV

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY
& THEO SOUFIS

HUME CITY



1

DANDENONG THUNDER



1

Match Details

Hume City:

Acevski, L (Geroh, K. 81'), Pace, S., Pir, Serdar, Delizzia, F.(Vlahos, A. 55'), Erdogan, I., Siveski, P., Cardozo, R., Petrevski, Z., Deli, A., Thompson, R.(Delic, D. 60'), Pistininti, M.

Scorer: Cardozo, R. 65'

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, Stuart, Hingert, J., Rexhepi, S, Gray, S., Harrison, B., Tomic, A., Taylor, C., Theodore, M. (Barnes, J. 71'), Kearny, L., Stott, A., Webster, Scott

Scorer: Tomic 35'

City Stifles Thunder in heavyweight battle

By George Stogiannou

Two of the VPL's heavy hitters Hume City and Dandenong Thunder, jabbed and weaved as they sparred their way to a 1-1 draw in their round 15 match at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Saturday afternoon.

A cautious opening produced few chances for either side and set the pattern for much of the match, giving the impression that both teams were saving their best for another occasion.

The first real chance of the match fell to Dandenong's new Welsh striker Ashley Stott on the half hour when he shot straight at Hume keeper Lupce Acevski from a scramble inside the six yard box. At the other end recently signed Hume City midfielder Pece Siveski tested Thunder keeper Stuart Webster with a shot on target from outside the box which the keeper palmed over the bar.

A string of injuries to key players forced Thunder to go into the game with a couple of recent recruits, including Scott Webster in a holding midfield position releasing Acim Tomic to play in a more attacking midfield role.

And it was these two who combined to produce the game's much needed first goal in the 35th minute, Webster's pin point cross from the left flank found Tomic at the far post whose header beat Acevski to give Thunder the lead.

If the home fans were hoping

for their team to be stung into action, they were disappointed as Thunder went closest to adding another before the break when midfielder Matthew Theodore struck a fierce drive at Acevski from the edge of the box in the last attack of the first half.

Early in the second half, Hume coach Andy Vlahos restructured his midfield introducing himself and Dusko Delic off the bench.

Hume began to produce some more fluency in its passing and in the 65th minute a Vlahos cross to the far post found City defender Steven Pace who headed the ball back across the goal mouth for midfielder Richie Cardozo to fire in an equalizer. Both teams had chances to score a winner in the final ten minutes. Thunder striker Stott outjumped his markers to head the ball over keeper Acevski who came off his line, but the ball rebounded off the upright. At the other end Vlahos flashed a shot across the goal face after receiving the ball from a quickly taken free kick. In the end both sets of players seemed happy to settle for a point.

After the game, Thunder coach Stuart Munro commented on the match, " I've been here three times with Dandenong and the games have been poor games each time. You get two good teams so why the spectacle was so poor, I don't know. There was a lot of effort out there from both teams but not a lot of quality. Normally we create a lot of



Isiyan Erdogan of Hume City challenges Liam Kearney of Dandenong Thunder. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

chances but today we rarely created any. Hume I think played a very similar system to us today and they really stifled us from creating chances....We probably didn't deserve to win it. It wasn't a good game, but to come up here and go away with a point is a fairly good results for us." Munro felt that his team finished the game strongly after a poor open-

ing to the second half. .."The one thing I'll say about this team is , you know we're disappointed when we draw games. We've got a team that really wants to win, We never settle for the draw."

Hume City coach Andy Vlahos commented afterwards, " I thought overall it was a fair result. I thought we came out in the first 15 minutes looking the

more assertive team but then we played into their hands a little bit. We had a few words at half time and started to put the ball down on the ground a little bit more and were rewarded with our goal. They (Dandenong) are very fit and very energetic and they've got runners. I think they'll be a major threat."



Hume City's Richie Cardozo fires home the equalizer and celebrates accordingly. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Hume City's Lou Acevski and Steven Pace can't stop Thunder's Acim Tomic rising to head the opening goal. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

VacationRentalPeople.com

Choose from
28,000 holiday homes
world wide and save
up to 50% on hotels

» To advertise your property visit: www.vacationrentalpeople.com

RICHMOND EAGLES



1

NORTHCOTE CITY



1

Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal, E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras, T.Purcell (A.Viola 67'), S.Muirhead, M.Catalano (M.Eterovic 73'), D.Bonne, A.Kovacic, M.Ferrante.

Goal: Own Goal 62'

Yellow Card: Ferrante 6'

Red Cards: None

Northcote City:

C.Petropoulos, H.D'Agostino, A.Chiappetta, L.Konstantinidis, S.Torrens, N.Curtis (D.Piemonte 72'), N.Tzoulis, J.Trifiro, J.Voulgaris, J.Kalifatidis, G.De Nittis.

Goal: Konstantinidis 65'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Honours shared at KB Reserve

By Mark Boric

RICHMOND hosted Northcote City in a local AVPL derby on Saturday, still seeking points to move further away from the relegation zone whilst their opponents sought to keep themselves in the mix for Finals football.

The Eagles went into the game without the injured Stuart Wilson, Timmy Purcell returning to the starting line-up which had defeated Dandenong Thunder 2-1 a week earlier. Glen Trifiro was also out of the City team through injury, a blow compounded by the absence of skipper Trent Rixon through suspension following his late dismissal in the 2-0 defeat of St Albans in the previous round. Transfer window pick-up Gianni De Nittis came in for his first start for Northcote to replace Rixon, with Nick Curtis added to the team in place of Trifiro.

It was a quiet opening to the game, with neither side finding their touch early on. Michael Catalano provided a cross in the fifth minute which was headed over the bar by Purcell. Five minutes later the Eagles hero from the previous week Stjepan Gal was first called into action, grabbing a flicked on free-kick when for a fleeting second it appeared the ball may be going over him. His opposite number Chris Petropoulos was soon forced into action, unconvincingly punching away a cross which fell to Michael Ferrante beyond the far post who sent a volley wide.

In the twentieth minute Catalano was able to dispossess a defender in the penalty area, a short pass to Devon Bonne then seeing the ball squared out to Purcell clear on

the right, who took too long to line-up his strike with the effort being blocked by Sam Torrens for a corner. A minute later Purcell had another great opportunity when a cross from Scott Muirhead found him free at the far post, this time Petropoulos managing to push the shot away.

Hayden D'Agostino wasted a good chance to put City ahead in the thirty-third minute, heading wide at the far post after the ball had been crossed back in following a cleared corner. Just before half-time a run from Catalano down the middle saw him slip the ball to Bonne on his left who had his shot blocked on the edge of the penalty area, leaving the score still locked at 0-0 entering the break.

It was a more lively start to the second half, with De Nittis round Gal on the right just two minutes after play resumed, forcing Antun Kovacic into making a vital sliding clearance right on the goal-line. Northcote then had a goal disallowed, referee Lucien Laverdure blowing his whistle early for a foul as Kristian Konstantinidis charged through to get on the end of a cross from the left. De Nittis had a shot from an angle on the right deflected just wide of the post by Erhan Karahan a minute before Richmond appealed for handball after Catalano sent a cross into the box.

Brilliant work from Ross Antoniaids led to Richmond opening the scoring in the sixty-second minute. Winning the ball on the edge of his own penalty area, he eluded two quick challenges before finding space when heading to the left. Antoniaids then sent the ball down the line with the outside of his



Richmond's Erhan Karahan and Northcote's Jonathan Voulgaris go toe to toe for the ball.
PHOTO: PETER PSARROS

foot to release Scott Muirhead, who carried it forward before sending a cross low to the penalty spot for Bonne which Petropoulos tried to cut out, only to see the ball ricochet off Adriano Chiappetta and into his own net.

The lead would prove to be short-lived, however, as Northcote drew back on level terms three minutes later. A corner kick from the left by Jason Trifiro was flicked on at the near post and it was Konstantinidis who arrived to sweetly volley it into the back of the net at the far post to make it 1-1.

Northcote pressed to gain the

ascendancy, Jonathan Voulgaris shooting straight at Gal when he had options to his right in the sixty-eighth minute. Voulgaris soon had another opportunity, once again hitting his strike straight at the Richmond keeper. Gal was also untroubled by a subsequent free-kick which comfortably rolled to him.

Late on Muirhead released Bonne on the right, who crossed to the far post where Mate Eterovic gathered the ball and squared it to Andrew Viola in the middle of the box, but he dwelt over his opportunity too long and the shot was eventually blocked. The final oppor-

tunity of the game would fall to substitute Viola, who made a string run through the middle into the box before having a shot blocked with Bonne presenting an option to his right.

At full-time it remained 1-1, both sides having to settle for a point from a fairly even contest. Richmond will have the Queen's Birthday weekend free before a visit to Green Gully on June 18th. Before their next AVPL game on that same Saturday hosting Hume City, Northcote City will have a Mirabella Cup clash with FC Bulleen Lions at the Veneto Club on Thursday night.



Northcote's Kristian Konstantinidis evades the Richmond defence to volley a sweetly taken equalizer for the visitors. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Richmond's Ross Antoniaids applies the pressure on Northcote to break the deadlock. Photo: PETER PSARROS

SOUTH MELBOURNE	0
HEIDELBERG UNITED	0

Match Details

South Melbourne FC

2. Tom MATTHEWS, 3. Rhodri PAYNE (16. Trent WATERSON 72'), 4. Steven O'DOR, 5. Daniel VASILJEVSKI, 6. STEVEN TOPALOVIC, 11. Jesse KRNCVIC (sent off), 12. Daniel DRAGICEVIC (25. Kyle JO- RYEFF 58'), 18. Marinos GASPARI (10. Kliment TASESKI 55'), 21. Zaim ZENELI, 23. Sebastian PETROVIC, 80. Junior CAMARGO

Heidelberg United

1. G.McMaster, 14. C.Elvin, 13. L.Byles, 3. L.Doumbalis, 2. Y.Hailemelkot, 7. H.Armenian, 11. E.Christodoulou, 23. T.Nishimots, 16. S.Martin, 20. S.Alexovski, 9. S.McIlroy
Subs: 8. A.Nabbout, 21. J.Samangis, 22. D.Alilavic, 32. J.Koutodontis, 4. M.Tancevski

Man of the Match:

Steven Topalovic (SMFC)

Venue: John Cain Memorial Park

Date: Sunday 5 June 2011

Points Are Savoured In Dour Derby

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC produced a gutsy second-half performance in the 0-0 draw against traditional rivals Heidelberg United on Sunday afternoon at John Cain Memorial Park.

The first half was a dour affair, with few chances created. South pressed forward in numbers but the final ball was always lacking. The Bergers looked dangerous when going forward however like South the final ball was lacking.

South made several changes early in the second half, with Kyle Joryeff and Kliment Taseski bought on to add some pace. However a huge decision set South back, with Jesse Krncevic given a straight red card for allegedly talking back to the referee, although it clearly looked like he was addressing the goalkeeper Griffin McMaster.

As a result, South was on the back foot with one less player, but to the home side's enormous credit, they stepped up the pressure and finished the match the stronger of the two sides. Daniel Vasilevski had a great opportunity to win the game from a set piece however his shot flew half a yard wide of

McMaster's goal.

Heidelberg were always dangerous on the counter attack but it was clear that the Bergers were clearly missing the services of their front man Osagie Ederaro, who was still serving a suspension. Whilst the Bergers came close on a few occasions, Zaim Zeneli hardly looked tested in the South goal. In the end, the full-time whistle confirmed a dour 0-0 draw, but to South it almost felt like a victory considering the circumstances.

The draw keeps both sides in the top five, with South retaining third spot while moving to 28 points, with the Bergers just behind them in fourth place with 26 points. South is two points off top place but have played one game more than first-placed Hume City and two games more than second-placed Oakleigh.

South Melbourne FC's next match is against Port Melbourne at Anderson Reserve on Wednesday night in what is the Fifth Round of the Mirabella Cup, with kick-off at 19:30. Heidelberg's next game is against Preston Lions in the same competition, with that game played next Sunday.



Saso Alexovski and Steve O'Dor give their version of events to the ref.

Photo:JOHN PUNSHON



Rhodri Payne (left) does enough to make it awkward for Sean McIlroy to effectively dispose of the ball. Steve O'Dor is there to back up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Yellow card coming up ... South's Steve Topalovic grabs a handful of the fleet footed Hamlet Armenain's shirt. Rhodri Payne follows up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

THIS IS FOOTBALL
www.thisisfootball.com.au

CLUB KIT SPECIALIST
P: 03 9428 3066

189 SWAN STREET, RICHMOND, VIC 3121. Email: thisisfootball@live.com.au
Receive your obligation free Club Kit quote today!

Knights Put Five Past Eagles

By David Manuca

On an uncharacteristically warm Winter day in Melbourne, the Melbourne Knights hosted the Springvale White Eagles at Knights Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Both clubs are lingering around the bottom of the Alanic Victorian Premier League table and a win for either team would do wonders in their fight to stay up.

And it was the Knights who came out on top with a commanding 5-0 victory over the Springvale White Eagles. Mathieu Welmant put the Knights ahead right on the stroke of half-time before Colosimo added a second on the hour mark and then scored his second ten minutes later to make it 3-0.

In the last ten minutes Josip Magdic and Mathieu Welmant added a goal each to seal the massive victory.

The Knights were winless in over two months and the big win over the Eagles is sure to bring back the confidence to the side in their attempt to stay in the Premier League.

Knights boss Paul Magdic made just one change to his side that fell to Green Gully last week replacing Adam Zilic with Mathieu Welmant.

Springvale player/manager Bojo Jevdjic made two changes to his eleven that fell to a gut-wrenching loss against Oakleigh with both Adam Ewin and Gojko Ponjevic making way for Dejan Erakovic and Stojan Milojevic.

The sides were evenly matched in the first 25 minutes with neither creating any clear-cut chances on goal.

Goran Zoric, like last week, was Springvale's spark in their attacking third with his lightning quick pace down the left wing.

Jacob Colosimo had the first shot on goal in the match on 31 minutes though he was never going to score from such a tight angle with the ball as expected going way over the bar.

Welmant had a shot blocked by Augustin on 38 minutes with Josip Kozic's shot from the rebound deflecting off one of his own players and out for a goal-kick.

On 43 minutes Jacob Colosimo had the fantastic opportunity to break the dead-lock when he was played in one-on-one with Scott Augustin but the goalkeeper ran off his line



The Knights celebrate after Jacob Colosimo scores the third goal Photo: DANIEL FLIS

just in time to block Colosimo's strike.

But the Knights fans disappointment turned into delight minutes later when Mathieu Welmant headed his side into the lead on the stroke of half-time.

Yusuf Yusuf delivered a pin-point cross from the right flank to Welmant who had the easiest of tasks to head the ball home from close range.

The Knights dominated the opening fifteen minutes of the second-half and were rewarded for their superiority when Jacob Colosimo scored the second on the hour mark.

Josip Kozic played in a fantastic cross to the centre from the left wing with Colosimo's initial effort blocked but he fumbled his rebound over the line to double the Knights advantage and send the home fans into rapture.

Knights continued their dominance of the match adding a third on 70 minutes. Welmant played in a great through ball to Colosimo who tucked away his shot beautifully past Augustin.

Springvale's misery was compounded with seven minutes remaining when when the man of Magdic, Josip, scored the Knights

fourth with a clinical finish from inside the box.

It got worse for Springvale just a few minutes later when the Knights found a fifth. Josip Magdic played in Mathieu Welmant who slotted the ball past Augustin for his sec-

ond of the match.

Welmant almost got his hat-trick in injury-time but his cracking shot from the edge of the area cannoned off the crossbar.

Next week is a week off for the VPL with the Queens Birthday

long weekend but in a fortnight's time the Knights take on VTC on Tuesday June 14 whilst Springvale host the other relegation threatened club St. Albans Saints on Sunday June 19.



Knights' Mathieu Welmant celebrates his goal with Leo Shin and Josip Magdic.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Josip Magdic makes it 4-0 as White Eagles keeper Scott Augustin stretches in despair and Dushan Nikolic is left in his wake. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Jacob Colosimo scores the second goal of the afternoon to put the Knights on their way to an emphatic victory. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



3

ST ALBANS SAINTS



1

Match Details

St Albans Saints:

Steven PAVLOVIC, Brian CHESSON (Josip LONCARIC 46'), Tomislav MILARDOVIC, Neven ANTIC, Michael GRGIC (Maks CUZE 75'), Liam CAN-NELL, Stefan PIORKOWSKI, Louis FENTON, Daniel VISEVIC, Goran JOZELJIC (Martin HANA 82'), Reardo LUKA.

Unused Subs: Frano SARIC

Goals: Fenton 46'.

Green Gully:

Nikola ROGANOVIC, Daniel JONES, Cameron DRAKE, Stephen DOWNES, Jeffrey FLEMING, Jason HAYNE (Pasquale VIZZARI 82'), Brent FISHER (Hamid BASMA 72'), Graham HOCKLESS, Matthew SANDERS, Mile MEDJEDOVIC, Johnathon MUNOZ (Dean KERR 77').

Unused Subs: Mason INTER-LANDI, Joshua PUGH.

Goals: Sanders 19', 38', Hayne 63'.

Gully wins local derby

By Steven Talevski

Green Gully comfortably defeated the St Albans Saints 3-1 in a local derby at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

In windy conditions Green Gully’s free flowing football proved to be too good for the Saints who are still without a win this season.

St Albans Saints fans were disappointed as there team came out without rumoured star signing former Socceroo Danny Tiatto.

Green Gully’s Graham Hockless had the first opportunity of the match as he failed to hit the target from a one on one situation with St Albans goalkeeper Steven Pavlovic in the fourth minute.

Just two minutes later Jason Hayne was able to find some space on the right wing and cut the ball across the goal but was unable to meet the feet of his team mates.

Saints winger Louis Fenton looked confident early in the match as his shot went firing wide due to a bobble that occurred because of the poor conditions of the ground.

Green Gully looked to take the lead as a free kick taken by Graham Hockless in the 13th minute was met by a Medjedovic header which went wide from the goal.

St Albans best chance in the first half happened in the 15th minute as Gully goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic made a good save from a fast break by influential Saints attacker Daniel Visevic.

Mathew Sanders scored Green Gully’s opener in the 19th minute as he was able to tap the ball in the back of the net from a Jason Hayne cross.

Just a minute later Green Gully looked to double their lead as Graham Hockless forced Steven

Pavlovic into a diving save to his bottom left from a low driven shot.

The windy conditions continued to affect the match as both teams were unable to construct goal scoring chances.

However Mathew Sanders scored his second goal in the 38th minute after some great scrambling work by Brent Fisher allowed him to tap the ball in the back of the net.

Green Gully looked to extend their lead before half time as Saints defender Neven Antic made a superb challenge on Jason Hayne inside the 16th yard box to take a golden opportunity from the Green Gully winger.

In a bid to change the momentum of the match Vinko Buljubasic brought on Josip Loncaric for Brain Chesson at the beginning of the second half.

In a quick start to the second half the St Albans Saints played some superb lead up play from the kick off which was followed up by a tap in by Louis Fenton to reduce the deficit by one goal in the 46th minute.

The second half continued to be a fiery encounter as both teams were hungry to achieve an important win.

Graham Hockless played a fantastic 25 yard through ball to Jason Hayne who was able to take on Steven Pavlovic to walk the ball into the back of the net in the 63rd minute.

Gully looked to extend the Saints misery as Sanders was able to find Jeffrey Fleming who hit his shot wide from the goal.

Despite not finding the goal Jeffrey Fleming continues to impress as a dominant figure for Green Gully in the centre of the midfield this season.

As St Albans Saints looked for a goal, substitute Josip Loncaric smashed his volley over the cross bar in the 73rd minute.

Gully's Jason Hayne and Matt Sanders celebrate. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Matt Sanders scores his second for the afternoon. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Michael Grgic limped of the field in the 75th minute for St Albans to add to their injury woes this season.

Mathew Sanders almost got his hat trick as his shot from 25 yards out was saved by Pavlovic.

St Albans had a golden opportunity to get on the score sheet as Daniel Visevic put his free header straight to Green Gully goal keeper Nikola Roganovic.

Nikola Roganovic found himself lucky as a shot by Tomislav Milardovic from 30 yards out was deflected and narrowly went wide past the right top corner.

Green Gully had the last chance of the match in the dying minutes as Hamid Basma was able to take on Saints goal keeper Steven Pavlovic but his efforts were cleared by some desperate defending from the St Albans defence.

Green Gully now move two points behind the top five while the St Albans Saints remain winless on the bottom of the Alanic Victorian Premier League.

Focus switches to cup football for both teams this week as Green Gully pay host to Sunshine George Cross as St Albans Saints travel to Morshead Park to face the Ballarat Red Devils in the Mirabella Cup.



Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	16	8	6	2	33	18	30
Oakleigh Cannons	15	9	3	3	31	21	30
South Melbourne	17	8	4	5	30	27	28
Heidelberg Utd	16	8	5	3	35	16	26
Northcote City	16	7	5	4	35	23	26
Dandenong Thunder	16	9	5	2	32	12	25
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	7	3	6	31	17	24
Bentleigh Greens	16	6	6	4	22	20	24
Richmond Eagles	16	5	3	8	19	29	18
Melbourne Knights	16	3	7	6	23	21	15
Springvale White Eagles	17	2	6	9	18	46	12
VTC Football	14	3	0	11	14	44	9
St Albans Saints	15	0	3	12	11	40	3

Alanic VPL Round 16

Tues 14 Jun 8:30PM N.T.C v Melbourne Knights Knights Stadium		
Fri 17 Jun 8:15PM Bentleigh Greens v Melbourne Knights Kingston Heath	Sun 19 Jun 3:00PM South Melbourne v Oakleigh Cannons John Cain Memorial	
Sat 18 Jun 3:00PM Green Gully Cavaliers v Richmond Eagles Green Gully Reserve	Sun 19 Jun 3:00PM Springvale White Eagles v St Albans Saints White Eagles Stadium	
Sat 18 Jun 3:00PM Northcote City v Hume City John Cain Memorial	Sun 19 Jun 3:00PM Heidelberg Utd v Dandenong Thunder Olympic Park (Village)	

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pt	
South Melbourne	16	11	3	2	37	18	36			Hume City 5
Melbourne Knights	16	9	3	4	47	20	30			Dandenong Thunder 0
Hume City	16	9	3	4	43	23	30			
Oakleigh Cannons	14	8	3	3	37	22	27			Richmond 2
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	7	5	4	32	25	26			Northcote City 1
Heidelberg Utd	14	6	3	5	26	25	21			
Northcote City	15	6	3	6	26	26	21			South Melbourne 2
Dandenong Thunder	16	6	3	7	30	31	21			Heidelberg Utd 0
Richmond	16	6	1	9	28	48	19			
VTC Football	13	5	1	7	25	34	16			St Albans Saints 0
Bentleigh Greens	16	3	4	9	28	41	13			Green Gully Cavaliers 1
Springvale White Eagles	17	4	1	12	24	56	13			
St Albans Saints	15	1	5	9	21	35	5			Melbourne Knights 5
										Springvale White Eagles 0

Monday 6th June 2011

31



Sport 

Support your Passion to WIN



THE ULTIMATE SPORTING DREAM

WIN a VIP Grand Final Package or
an Australian Institute of Sport
Training Package

5 TO BE
WON!



**PLUS
FREE MINI
SPORT BALL**
with the purchase of 2 Elastoplast products
(While Stocks last)

Promotion ends 30/06/11. See in-store for further details or visit www.elastoplast.com.au for full terms and conditions.
NSW Permit No. LTPS/11/01843, VIC Permit No. 11/347, SA Licence No. T11/347, ACT Permit No. TP11/00638

*One per state group.



Visit your
local Pharmacy

and buy 2 Elastoplast products then go to
www.elastoplast.com.au
to enter

